PLUS: PLAYING FOOTBALL THE LIVERPOOL WAY + THE MAN WHO MADE THE SHANKLY GATES + LIVERPOOL FC LADIES

LIVERPOOL FC

OFFICIAL LIVERPOOL FC MONTHLY MAGAZINE

LIVERPOOLFC.COM

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW VICE-CAPTAIN

Aly Cissokho: from Messi to Merseyside

Exclusive shots behind the scenes at the Academy

What's so good about Daniel Sturridge



ISSUE 014 £3.95



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LIVERPOOL FC MONTHLY

Editor David Cottrell **Assistant Editor** William Hughes
Writers John Hynes, Simon Hughes
Art Editor Neil Haines **Designer** Lisa-Marie Critchley
Contributors Mark Platt, Ged Rea, Dave Ball, Aiden Cusick, Kelsey Maxwell
Photography Press Association, Getty Images, John Powell, Andrew Powell Imagery
© Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd. **Published by** ProgrammeMaster Ltd
Group Editorial Director Lee Berry **Head of Production** Liam Curry
Subscriptions Lorraine Rollo **Head of Advertising** Rob Williams 020 7121 5033
www.programmemaster.com Tel 020 7121 5000 Fax 020 7121 5001
Email LFCMag@programmemaster.com. To subscribe call 08700 20 20 20
or visit www.programmemaster.com **Printed by** William Gibbons.





PICK THAT ONE OUT

Daniel Sturridge's goal at Aston Villa was special: the dummy, the twist, the turn, and the toe-end. It secured Liverpool's second win in as many games this season and here you can see what it means to the striker as he celebrates with Lucas moments after the ball hit the net.



THE SPIRIT OF 1978

It's 35 years since one of LFC's finest displays – the 7-0 victory over Spurs at Anfield. It included one of the greatest team goals in living memory – Terry McDermott heading in Steve Heighway's cross in the 76th minute following a sweeping end-to-end move. "That must be the best goal that Anfield has ever seen," said boss Bob Paisley.





SIMON SAVES THE DAY

In spite of Liverpool's possession and goalscoring opportunities on the opening day of the season, Stoke City could have snatched a draw from the penalty spot in the final seconds of the game. Instead Jonathan Walters' kick was saved by debutant Simon Mignolet. "It couldn't have finished any better for me," the Belgian said.



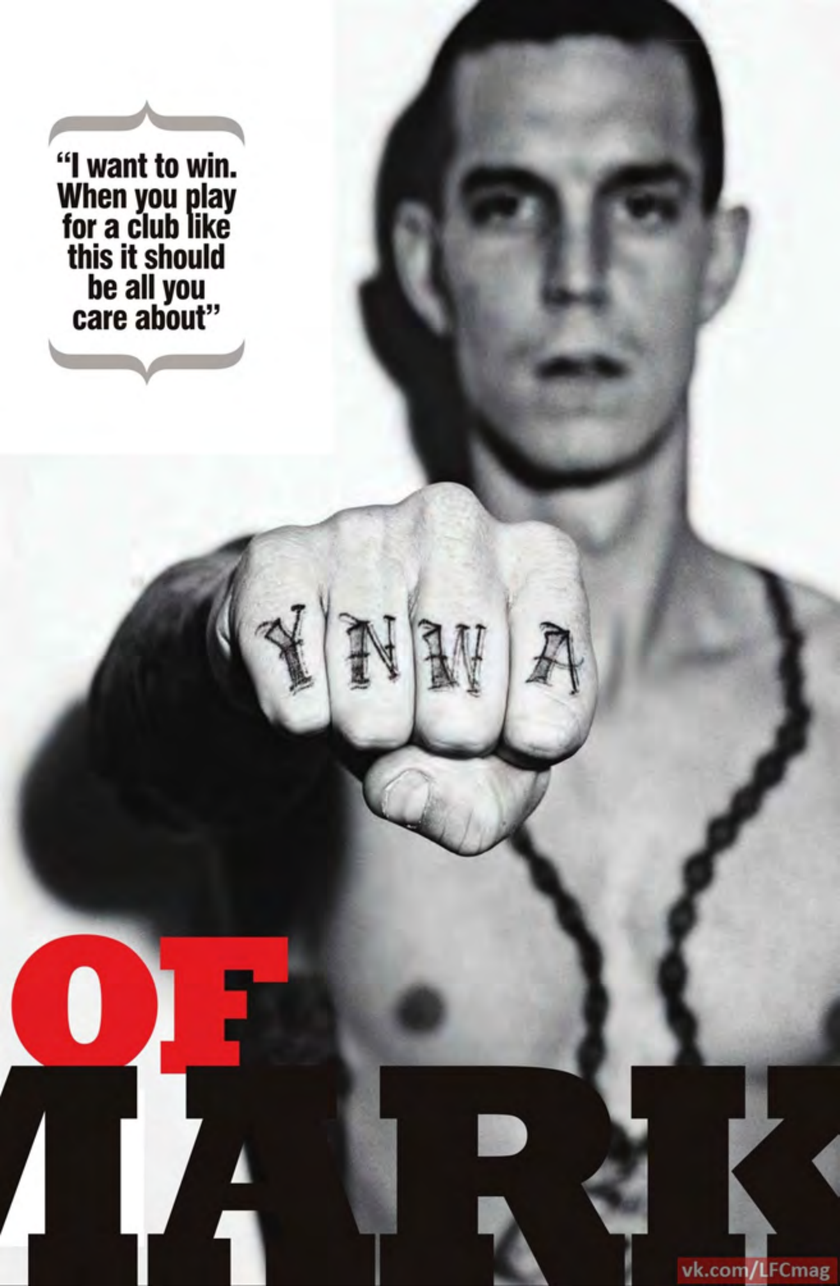
A TEAM EFFORT

Nine players celebrate Sturridge's goal at Villa – a mark of the team spirit at Liverpool. "Last year it took us until September to get our first win," said Brendan Rodgers "It's all credit to the players. They have been absolutely first-class. There's been a lot of distractions over the summer. But we've just stayed focused on our task which was to make a good start."


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Passionate. Private. Smart. Thoughtful. Gifted. Humble. Daniel Agger is all of these and more. *Simon Hughes* interviews our great Danish centre-back to find out why

PRINCE DENM



"I want to win. When you play for a club like this it should be all you care about"

OF MARK


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Daniel Agger insists that his life is unremarkable. The fact that he's an international football captain and now a deputy at Liverpool is merely a fact rather than something more. He does seem incredibly ordinary. This view is only a snapshot, but considering his talent and status, maybe such an impression of himself while accurate is – ironically – quite remarkable.

Speak to people who know him well and they say similar things. "He's a lovely man, very humble," offers one former coach. "He plays, goes home, takes care of his family and sleeps well," observes another.

Agger admits openly that he does not like the "circus" which surrounds football. "If you can prove yourself on the pitch, there's nothing else to discuss. Everything behind it comes second," he says. Look at his Twitter page – set up to promote his own charitable foundation – and none of the people he follows are well-known celebrities. He admits too that he does not really like doing interviews or talking about himself publically: cultivating a personality. "I will do it [talk to the media] but its just part of the job, nothing else."

Agger enjoys his own space, living in South Liverpool with his wife and young son. "Luckily, there are a lot of players that don't want to be private," he smiles. "They can take a lot of the attention away from me…"

Having emerged from Brondby's youth system, a club whose Latin motto when translated means roughly 'Nobody over the club', Agger's professional focus has always been the games, what actually happens: the tackles, the headers, and the shots; the goals and misses. He is not interested in offering platitudes just to please an audience and canvass popularity. The adulation of the crowd does not concern him. "All that matters," he says, pausing contemplatively, "is that when it has all finished, we have won. It's nothing to do with being a senior player because I've always been like this. I want to win. When you play for a club [like Liverpool], winning should be all you care about. Silver means nothing. Nobody remembers second."

Daniel Agger the footballer wants the same things as Daniel Agger the person. "You have a football life and a private life. But the person, the way I act during games – that's me. I'm not trying to be something else. There is no reason to try to do that. It's just me: me being natural."

In England there is a tendency to divide captains into two categories: the strong subtle type who leads by example or the non-stop shouter-organiser. Agger believes such an assumption is far too simplistic. "I talk a lot," he says firmly. "I try to help my team-mates the best I can. I always say what is on my mind. I will not be quiet if something is wrong. People either like me or don't like me and that's it."

Even when Jamie Carragher was there, Agger led. Watch and listen closely and he would be talking and pointing other players in what he believed was the right direction. He takes responsibility for the team by what he physically does too. In the opening minutes of Fernando Torres' debut for Chelsea against Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in 2011, Agger positioned himself defiantly when Torres tried to knock the ball past him. The Spaniard collided with a one-man roadblock and somewhat embarrassingly lay on the floor, ego suitably bruised. Only a few days before, Agger and Torres were team-mates. But sentimentality did not matter. Torres was going nowhere. A statement needed to be made.


With team-mates on the club's pre-season tour

"I always say what is on my mind – people either like me or don't like me, that's it"

"I haven't changed much," he emphasises. "Maybe you could hear Carra more. But I will always do what I think is right. I won't change."

Agger admits, though, that he has learnt from other players and other captains. He refers to Steven Gerrard as a "genius." But the art of leadership is not something he studies intently. It's a case of learning from personal experience, observing others and applying it to the present.

"Of course, you have to look at other people. That's the way you become a better player, better person. You take the best parts, look at the worst parts and put it all together to do what you think is right. I wouldn't say it [leadership] fascinates me like maybe it does others. But if there is a situation, which needs controlling, I will try my best to deal with it straightaway. My idea is that if there is a chance to give something, you should always do it."

On a field somewhere away from the neat linear streets, small shopping precincts and low-rise apartment blocks of Hvidovre, Daniel Agger was spotted as a nine-year-old playing football by scouts of some of Copenhagen's most reputable clubs.

Hvidovre is a blue-collar district and unexceptional, south of Copenhagen's business centre. From its highest building on one of two vast housing estates, the mammoth Oresund Bridge is visible to the east, stretching five miles across a strait of the same name to Malmo in Sweden.

To the west rests Brondby, a middle-class district associated closely with football. With more than 2000 members, Brondby IF remains the most popular club not just in metropolitan Copenhagen, but also in the whole of Denmark.

Opening image courtesy of Tattoodo.com

Agger first signed official forms at Brondby at a time when the club was dominant in its domestic league. They also performed impressively in Europe. Dan Eggen's goal knocked Liverpool out of the UEFA Cup in 1995. It was the club to support and the place where the majority of young footballers aspired to be.

Agger arrived there as a left-footed striker of diminutive build. Even until his mid-teens, his frame was slight. Aged 15, however, he was promoted into the Under 17s team managed by veteran tactician John Ranum Jensen. A stalwart of the club, Ranum Jensen had seen "hundreds, maybe thousands" of youngsters come and go at Brondby since first being employed as a youth-team coach in the summer of 1979 after his own football career was ended by a serious knee injury before he'd left school.

"Sure, we knew Daniel," Ranum Jensen remembers. "His potential was known at eight, nine years old – the ability was obvious." Among more than 300 children aged below 15, Agger shone. "All the coaches speak. His name was always discussed."

Agger, though, had two problems. The first was his size. The second was his fitness. Like Ranum Jensen, Agger suffered a knee injury. Although not as serious, it might have stunted his development at a crucial time. In the pages of this magazine, Martin Kelly, now one of Agger's teammates at Liverpool has spoken before about how at that age, a six-month injury can have long term-implications. "It isn't just the six months. It's the time you spend getting back to the levels you were at before. By that time, your contract is expiring," he said.

Ranum Jensen believes that if Agger was concerned, he did not show it. "My impression always was that he is very strong mentally. When things are not going his way, he was always



working. Hard work has always been within him." In the months away from competitive football, Agger played more golf. He became accomplished. The staff at Brondby were concerned he may choose a different career path. "There was a talent and golf people told him that he had a very big future. But he loved football. Golf was just for fun," Ranum Jensen recalls.

Rejoining a team that also included future Danish internationals Thomas Kahlenberg (later of Auxerre and Wolfsburg) and Michael Krohn-Delhi (Ajax and Celta Vigo), Agger played as a left back, still considered too willowy for a more central position. "Soon he learnt how to use his body. As a second year player, you could see how his understanding had improved. If there was a weakness, he found a way to adapt and get better."

Finally, there was a growth spurt. "We did not worry that Daniel wouldn't make it because of his height. But he probably couldn't have been a centre back being so small. His determination said to me that he would have been a top footballer no matter his size."

Agger was never in a rush. On the pitch, he played in an unhurried manner. Off it, he thought of education, completing a three-year course at Copenhagen's School of Business. Ideas of being elsewhere – bigger European clubs – was not an issue. It was not the case with all of Brondby's teenagers. "This particular team was good. Lots of other clubs looked at our players. Obviously we were convinced it was a better idea to stay at Brondby. Unfortunately, Michael [Krohn-Delhi] decided to go to Ajax. It was a bad move because he ended coming up back to Brondby later and did not play international football for a long time. Then you see Daniel. He did not move to Liverpool until he was 22. He took his time. Daniel wanted to finish his school. He's very smart. Sometimes

"He is strong mentally. When things aren't going his way he always works"

there can be a lot of focus on football. It would be tempting to do nothing else. But Daniel wasn't like that. He had the ability and determination to do both. We know that all footballers who come to us will not make it as professionals. So we try to give them an education. Some listen. Some don't. Daniel did.

"As a person he's always kept himself a little bit in the background. He has always had a tight bond with his family. It means everything to him. People who treat him well will receive it back. He is a very secure person, motivated by happiness. Money never has been and never will be an issue. He has never chased anything. He works and opportunities arrive."

Since moving to Liverpool, there have been such opportunities. This summer Barcelona were supposedly interested in recruiting him. But Agger was happy. And so he stayed. He is now one of the longest-serving foreign outfield players at a Premier League club.

A player of his style would suit any of Europe's best teams. The style has always been there: striding effortlessly forward, head up – looking for passes along the floor. With Ranum Jensen's youth team, he scored close to 10 goals a season from left-back, an equal number direct from free-kicks and open play. As a 19-year-old, he made his debut for Denmark's Under 20 side and scored again. "In that game, everyone saw that we had an international standard – a top European player. He was so calm. Nothing could push him, make him nervous," Ranum Jensen says.

By then, he had been incorporated to Brondby's first team structure under the undisputed king of Danish football, Michael Laudrup. It was Laudrup's assistant, John Jensen (not to be confused with John Ranum Jensen) who recommended the promotion.

"The players out of the side needed practice so we arranged a mini-tournament with the Under



Daniel signing in January 2006



In action for his country

18s," remembers the former Arsenal midfielder. "I was focusing on the first-team players. But from the first minute, I was so impressed with this left-back. We knew about him already, of course, but the thing that stood out the most was his commitment. It was as if it was his last game, flying into tackles.

"I went and told Michael [Laudrup] straight away about what I'd seen. This was a player we needed in the first team. So we took him. It was like he'd been in the team all his life, outshining many experienced players. It was as if he had five years behind him already.

"Michael was surprised. Daniel just went in there and did his thing. Most young players when they start [in the first team], take it easy – maybe play within themselves. But Daniel looked like an experienced international player. Michael wanted to play through the midfield and from the back to the front. Daniel took responsibility of the ball. Michael liked that."

Agger's ability on the ball often overshadows his defensive abilities. Very rarely does he get caught in possession or out of position. When he does need to make a tackle, he is aggressive. "When he saw an opportunity, he'd really go for it," Jensen says. "That applies to both attacking and going forward. He doesn't hold back. His judgement is very good now. When he was young, maybe he rushed into these situations – a bit like Steven Gerrard. We'd watch him and think: surely he can't win this... He'd usually get there. When he reached the first team and as the years went by, he learnt which ones were achievable and which ones were not."

Once a midfielder, Jensen appreciates how important it is to have an understanding with the players behind him. At Arsenal he knew that Tony Adams and Steve Bould would not bring the ball out of defence. "That made my responsibility a lot clearer. It is very hard to find the combination of a good defender who is also a good attacker. Usually, if a defender attacks people question his defending. But that has never been the case with Daniel. It's because he can see the whole pitch and knows when there is an opportunity to attack."

In early training sessions, Agger was positioned in the centre. Aged 18, he had grown to over six feet. From there, he could dictate the tactical approach of his side in practice matches. "With Daniel, it was normal for him from day to be a part of the offensive plan. When you see him receive the ball, his head is already up. He doesn't even need to look at the ball. He's looking for options. But his first option is to



Toe to toe with Stoke City at the start of the 2013/14 season

"You have to learn and become better all the time – it's just about maturity"

pass forward or diagonally, never to the left-back or inside. When you are the manager of an opposing team and you know you are facing a defender who goes forward, it is very difficult to prepare. We knew he could be a surprise threat in this Brondby team."

Agger's opportunity came when Brondby sold Andreas Jakobsson, the Swedish defender, to Southampton so late in the transfer window that there was no chance to replace him. It was a classic case of taking the money without having an alternative in place. There was only the youth ranks. There was only Agger.

"Me and Michael just said, 'Now is the time for Daniel – let's throw him in there'. During the second game, we were sitting on the bench and Michael whispered to me, 'We may just have the best young defender in Denmark here – maybe in Europe.' Daniel had been waiting for that chance. He just needed it. He took it."

Agger played alongside Per Nielsen, a Danish international who'd spent his entire career at Brondby. Nielsen had just passed his 31st birthday. "We realised it was important to have someone alongside Daniel who could take the heat," Jensen recalls. "That person was Per. But at the same time, Per learnt a lot from Daniel. Before, Per was not so good on the ball. Suddenly, he became much better. He took pressure off Daniel and his leadership became stronger. I would say they learnt a lot from each other."

For Agger, playing under a Danish legend like Laudrup was not something he thought deeply about. Even when they first met, Agger was not a wide-eyed teenager who needed a winch to heave his jaw off the floor. "Football was not an obsession in terms of it was all I wanted. I had other interests outside football. For me was about playing and having fun rather than being seen. I never thought about what it would be like to play in front of 60,000 people. It was just about how I did in the park.

"It happened so quickly. I wasn't meant to be there. I had other plans. But they offered me a contract. I signed it. I got into the team. I started to play every game. And now I'm here."

Both of his coaches at Brondby agree that Agger was a different type of leader. "He always had his own opinion but he followed the coach and the team," says Ranum Jensen. The other Jensen adds that he is captain material because of his consistency. "Against the better players, he played even better than normal. You always have a few bad games. But that is why Daniel is one of the best in the world. His bottom level is still very, very high."

When Agger has slipped into Jensen's "bottom level," he has learnt. Such is the relentless nature of modern football, some players bury bad moments and move on. Agger faces a problem and thinks. When asked whether he gets over a bad result quickly, the answer is swift and emphatic. "No," he says, pausing again to consider his fuller response. "It's important to learn from your mistakes, to take the bad things and try to improve them. If you don't think, you could be ignoring something important. I know other people have different views. Some say you should try and forget straightaway. But the only way you get better is if you take a little time to reflect."

He believes the extra responsibility of being vice-captain at Liverpool can improve his game further. "You have to learn and become better all the time. That is a challenge for any human being," he concludes. "Of course, I'd love to get better every game, every season. But I'm doing things the same as I've always done them. I'm not forcing it. You could say that really, development is just maturity."

The first Great Dane

Before Daniel, the last time Liverpool tried to sign a gifted youngster from Brondby, the deal fell through. In 1982 the late Tom Saunders, the club's European scout, watched 18-year-old Michael Laudrup in action for Brondby and told manager Bob Paisley to sign him. The Reds reportedly offered a four-year contract. Laudrup's father Finn wouldn't budge from two. A deal could not be done.

"We recognised the lad's talent," said Tom, "but we couldn't agree terms." Juventus swooped the next year, but as late as 1987 Laudrup said, "I'll stay in Italy for two more years, then I think I'll join Liverpool." Instead he signed from Barcelona where he won the 1992 European Cup before switching to Real Madrid.




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STURRIDGE
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STURRIDGE in their own words



JAMIE CARRAGHER

"FOR ME, HE'S ENGLAND'S BEST STRIKER. IF I WAS PICKING THE ENGLAND TEAM, I'D HAVE HIM IN IT. WHEN HE SIGNED FOR LIVERPOOL THERE WERE QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT HIS ATTITUDE. THERE WAS ALWAYS THAT TALK ABOUT 'IS HE THE RIGHT CHARACTER?' HE CAME INTO LIVERPOOL IN JANUARY AND WAS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR US, EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED. HE IS SHOWING EVERYONE NOW. HE JUST NEEDED A CHANCE."

JIM CASSELL

(FORMER MAN CITY ACADEMY MANAGER)

"Hopefully Liverpool will get the best from Daniel as he has the potential to be a top-class international striker. Daniel was exceptional, even as a 13-year-old. He had great pace, fantastic feet and magnificent vision. I couldn't speak too highly of him when he was with us. He trained hard, was respectful and always immaculately turned out - I thought he was great. We knew he could go on and achieve great things."



ALAN SMITH

(FORMER ARSENAL STRIKER)

"A brilliantly taken goal at Aston Villa followed the decisive strike against Stoke. Not bad for a player who still has some way to go before reaching full match fitness. In his favour though the 23-year-old would appear to look after himself very well. Reporting back for training after recovering from the ankle injury sustained playing for England in May, his body-fat reading was exactly the same as at the end of last season. That tells you that he eats all the right foods, that he is serious about his work."



ROY HODGSON

"Daniel has for many years been an enormous talent. Chelsea paid a lot of money for him to Manchester City before he had broken into the City team. He has been more of a regular at Liverpool, and he has grown in confidence. And we are seeing all the qualities we have always known he has had. He is very confident at the moment. And we are hoping he can bring us something with his incredible pace and footwork and technical ability."



BRENDAN RODGERS

"You'd look at him and people would think he'd maybe be a Brazilian striker with his body physique and his pace and power. England are fortunate to have him because he's a big talent but he knows he needs to be consistent, he needs to get himself the games and the goals. I have got no doubt though that he will be a massive asset for England. It's about consistency. Strikers are judged on goals in games and if you judge him on that his record's very good. It's still very early but there is no question he's potentially the top English striker. He's got all the tools to be that. The frightening thing is he's still got a bit to go in terms of his fitness. He missed nearly all of pre-season and he only joined the group in the last few weeks. Once he's fully fit then he'll be even better. We've taken all the pressure off him and it's just about him working hard. When he does that you see all his qualities and he's working very well."

JOSE ENRIQUE

"HE'S A TOP PLAYER AND I THINK HE CAN CHALLENGE FOR THE TOP SCORER THIS SEASON. IF HE HAS GOOD LUCK WITH [AVOIDING] INJURIES THEN I THINK IF HE CONTINUES IN THIS FORM, HE WILL BE RIGHT UP THERE. FOR ME HE'S GOT EVERYTHING YOU WANT FROM A STRIKER. HE IS QUICK, STRONG AND CAN PLAY WITH BOTH FEET."



JORDAN HENDERSON

"Studge has been great since he arrived here. He helped our season go on the up when he arrived. Both he and Philippe Coutinho were brilliant players for us in the second half of last season and hopefully they can just continue the way they finished the season. Studge is a massive talent. He showed that when he was at Chelsea. He's a great player already but I'm sure he's improving all the time. He's got everything to be a top, top player. He has brilliant feet, his first touch and movement are great, his finishing is good, and he has vision as well. He has just got to keep working hard and doing the things he has been doing. If he does that he will be a fantastic player for Liverpool and England. If he keeps progressing he can be the top-scoring English player in the Premier League."



IAN RUSH

"HE HAS GOT A GOOD FOOTBALL BRAIN, COUTINHO HAS AS WELL - SOME OF THE PASSES HE PUTS THROUGH ARE SUPERB. WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE LIKES OF COUTINHO, STURRIDGE, LUIS SUAREZ, STEVEN GERRARD AND PEOPLE LIKE THAT YOU HAVE GOT FOUR OR FIVE PEOPLE WHO CAN WIN YOUR GAMES WHEN PREVIOUSLY WE ONLY HAD ONE OR TWO."



TONY CASCARINO

(FORMER CHELSEA AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND STRIKER)

"It is a pity we didn't see him in a [Chelsea] blue shirt playing a central role more often because some of the goals he is getting are not just predator-type goals, they are great striker's goals. So many Chelsea fans are thinking: wow, we could bid £50m for this kid now! I spoke to Mark Bowen when he was at Manchester City and they said the kid had the lot, blistering place, a good first touch, but they felt he just needed to be more of a predator. Not only will Chelsea fans be thinking they should've kept him now, but City fans are probably thinking that too."


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Football in Germany is on a high – and there are some fascinating reasons why

Didi HAMANN



I grew up as a Hamburg fan. One of my first memories was their 1983 European Cup final win over Juventus and a few years earlier Kevin Keegan had been a real superstar there [see page 66]. The fans loved 'Mighty Maus' and I'd go as far as to say that if a poll of Hamburg's best players of all time was done Keegan would finish top.

He was a brilliant player in a good team, and after he'd left the club continued to grow until they were one of the best on the Continent. At that point German football was in a healthy state. Fast-forward 30 years and people are saying it's the finest around.

After last season's Champions League final between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund many declared the Bundesliga the best in Europe. While it was an achievement for two teams from the same country to be involved at Wembley I don't think it means German football is miles ahead.

For me there isn't much difference between the Premier League, La Liga and the Bundesliga. Munich and Dortmund were the outstanding sides in the European Cup, but if you look further down the tables and picked out the seventh or eighth-placed teams from the three leagues I think the quality of the sides is fairly similar.

While I'm not certain about my home country's claims to superiority over other leagues, what no one can deny is the feel-good factor surrounding German football right now. It might sound daft but that began at the 2006 World Cup. The progression of the team to the semi-finals encouraged people to go to games. More women and kids went along and the country's matches became family occasions.

"After the 2006 World Cup more women and kids went to games in Germany"

When the 2006/07 domestic season started that trend continued. Reasonable ticket prices helped attendances and the clubs started to organise lots of pre-match entertainment. It led to a party atmosphere. Football is a social event in Germany now with full stadiums. In turn the clubs have pumped the money the fans spend into the teams, leading to more success.

Dortmund are an example of that now. Not so long ago they found themselves with major financial problems after spending cash they assumed they'd make from Champions League participation. When they didn't qualify they almost went under. Dortmund learned from that and rebuilt. I think other clubs saw what happened and that encouraged them to be more prudent. A benefit has been the development of young German footballers.

I know Carra spoke recently about how having too many foreign players in an academy can be detrimental to home-grown players. In Germany there simply isn't the money to import lots of players who might one day feature for the first team. It means they concentrate more on working with German boys and developing them.

There is nothing wrong with imports. If they are top-quality their presence can improve the other players. But if you've got an U21 squad which consists of mainly foreign players who are never going to feature for the first team it's problematic. Thankfully Liverpool's squads at both U18 and U21 level have a good balance between English and foreign players.

In Germany there also seems to be more willingness for managers to put untried young players in the first team. Here, that is not usually the case, although Brendan Rodgers has done it with Raheem Sterling, Andre Wisdom and Jordon Ibe. That has to be the way ahead with financial fair play coming in.

You can see why people may argue that German football is ahead of its rivals. I don't go along with that but there is definitely plenty we can learn from it in this country.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann



Dortmund's attendances are the biggest in Europe

The pages of a long-gone local newspaper take us back 121 years to when and where it all began

1892 & all that



It was called in full *The Liverpool Review of Politics, Society, Literature and Art* – and in 1892 it had plenty to say about the sport of football too, including the very origins of Liverpool FC.

In an article headed 'The Everton Football Row' in the 26 March 1892 edition there was a first-hand account of the infamous meeting in which 'Mr John Houlding was expelled from the presidency' of the Toffees: '8.05: Business starts. Houlding asked to take the chair. Won't... 10.35: Members in a hurry to close as there are only a few minutes to sup ale'. The same issue featured a cartoon (left) of the man who made the Blues leave Anfield so he could set up the Reds.

The next week's Review proclaimed: 'Hitherto, Liverpool has boasted only two really "class" Association football clubs, Everton and Bootle. Next September she will boast four: Everton, Bootle, Caledonians, and the new Liverpool. Which of the quartet will prove the stronger remains to be seen'. Caledonians were a team of Liverpool Scots based in Wavertree who were disbanded only a year later.

By September 1892 the new season – LFC's first – was in full swing. The Review reported that 'verily the football demon is upon us yet again' and continued: 'That the public are "cottoning" to the prowess of Liverpool is shown in the fact that the gates at the matches are steadily increasing. The first fixture attracted a few hundred; last Saturday quite 6,000 people were present. Of course the Everton team were away and that may have had a beneficial influence for the Liverpudlians. But the fact remains that the team is growing in public favour'.

THE FOOTBALL FEVER.

Something About The Liverpool Club.

This week I have had an opportunity of a chat with a prominent official of the Liverpool Club. .. Mr. John Houlding's team it is called in some quarters, but for why, I don't exactly understand. The organisation has been formed into a company and on the committee of management are footballers who know the game from one end to the other, and who will go straight without fear or favour.

.. .. ..

LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL WAR.

"Preparations for war are to be made for a long tim before, that you may more quickly conquer."

s quotation, happily, has no reference er General Election; neither to the Na euvres, nor to any actual war of arms the country is soon likely to be preci But, at the same time, it *has* referen war—a war of feet, legs, and heads, very many thousands of Liverpudlia leeply interested. Pray, forgive t eal quotation from Sententiæ; we a y referring to the war of football which o burst over the country, and particular about Liverpool.

a war, Liverpool considered, the fort g football season is bound to be. Th an exaggerati...

MARCH 26, 1892.

THE EVERTON FOOTBALL ROW.

A MEMBER of the Everton Football Club who was present at the meeting when Mr. John Houlding was expelled from the presidency of the club sends us the following notes which he made at the time:

8-5.—Business starts. Houlding asked to take the chair. Won't. Minutes. Guarantee Fund. Hartley's amount received with loud shouts of "good old jam!" Hudson's with equally loud shouts of "good old soap!" Chairman's speech. Lasts forty minutes. In my opinion settles the matter at once. Member's liability. Satisfactorily answered by Cornett. Tom Howarth rises and is received with cries of "How many shares are they giving you"—laughter, hisses, uproar, "sit down," "company," &c. Few feeble cheers completely drowned.

9-0.—All present wildly excited. Howarth fearfully and wonderfully interrupted as he wanders away from question.

9-30.—M'Kenna rises, and is received with terrible howls of execration and yells of "Lie down M'Kenna!" "Traitor!" etc. This is kept up all the time he is on his feet. Is cried down. Cheers. Jumps ... down ditto. More cheers. ... interrupted. Members say ... time.

9-45.—Vote taken now for ... as to majority.

9-50.—Mr. Clayton...

The Liverpool Review

Of Politics, Society, ...

SEPTEMBER 10, 1892.

HOULDING'S BUST FOOTBALL.

DOUBTLESS, every Liverpudlian, particularly of the male persuasion, from six years of age to sixty, understands that there has been a row, or a series of rows, between Mr. Councillor John Houlding and the Everton Football Club. The daily papers, the morning-evenings, and the "sporting" off-shoots have, during the past few months, missed no opportunity of ruthlessly impressing this strained relationship on the public mind. After the Deeming distribes and the Dissolution deceptions the Everton football fracas appears to have taken up most space in the news columns of the local press. In one way and another this is no doubt hard upon the public, but the football fiend and his Pegasus do not stick at trifles. Mr. Houlding on the one side and Mr. Clayton, Mr. Mahon, and other spirits on the other, have, of course, much to answer for on their own...

FOOTBALL IN LIVERPOOL.

AFTER to-morrow, Saturday, the footballer will go found for a season—"off" season, of course—in sackcloth and ashes. April 30th brings with it the cessation of all football until September, and footballers feel the weary wait very much at heart at first. However, to Liverpool footballers the 1892 off-season will not be dull. There is a lot of work to be got through before September. Hitherto, Liverpool has boasted only two really "class" Association football clubs, Everton and Bootle. Next September she will boast four; Everton, Bootle, Caledonians, and the new Liverpool. Which of the quartette will prove the strongest remains to be seen, but it may be said that the promoters of the two new clubs and the supporters of the old are doing their utmost financially and otherwise to secure the best talent in the ranks. Everything considered, perhaps, the two new organisations, the Caledonians and the Liverpool, have the better outlook. The former is located at Woolcroft Park, a fine piece of ground half-a-minute's walk from Wavertree station, capable of accommodating with comfort 20,000 people. The latter is located on the present Everton ground and is backed by Mr. John Houlding and the Houlding party, who have lately withdrawn from Everton. For the rest, Bootle at Hawthorne-road will be "engineered" by pretty much the same people as in the past, while "good old Everton" in the new fixes will be run at Goodison-road. There is thus a happy vista opened up for the Liverpool footballer next season. It is too early yet to give the names of players recruited for the four clubs, but when they are published they will be found to include some of the best-known and cleverest exponents of the game.

THE FOOTBALL FEVER.

... PEACE! Peace!! Peace!!! Peace!!!! Truly ... ily the football demon is upon us yet again, but why ... fight, fight and squabble as we are? In other words ... should the Evertonian rage and the Caledonian, the ... pudlian, and the Bootleite imagine a vain thing?

... ...

... at is to say, if the football madness has again bitten ... badly—*very* badly this year—what need is there for ... mony and vile contention? Football is a sport—a grand ... —let those who follow it be sportsmen and remember ... are such. Some of us don't, I fancy.

.. .. ..

... nd now let us climb right down from high flights of ... ralising and begin fair and square on "The Football ... ver" of 1892-93.

THE LIVER WAY

Revisiting a treasury of knowledge from the late great Tom Saunders, one of Liverpool FC's longest servers

Has football really changed that much over the last few decades? Way back in season 1978/79 the Liverpool FC matchday programme ran a series by the club's youth development officer Tom Saunders, explaining the rudimentaries of the game – the way it should be played at Anfield – for the next generation of LFC stars.

Tom, a former schoolteacher and member of the fabled Boot Room brigade, played a key role in Liverpool's success in the 1970s and 80s – although he's perhaps more renowned as the club's European 'spy'. In 1993 he was elected to the board of directors and made vice-president of the club. He died aged 80 in July 2001, but his words of wisdom still resonate… >

Tom Saunders

PENALTY! AND DON'T BE KIDDED BY THE GOALKEEPER

THERE IS AN ART ABOUT TAKING A THROW-IN

BETWEEN THE STICKS

"It is important for the keeper to make the greatest use of his area, so that as he despatches the ball he has gained space which enables him to get it to a team-mate… The keeper also has to be decisive about when to stay on his line and when to come out. A general rule is that when you're not directly involved with play you stand on the six-yard line, ready to move in relation to the ball, while if the action is coming close you try to ensure that you have covered as much of the goal as possible, by judging the angle. Goalkeeping is far from being a matter of just standing around – it demands sound judgement as well as agility, safe handling and concentration... The keeper is the one real specialist in the team."



POOL



WINNING THE BALL

"You don't have to be a giant or a heavyweight to win the ball in a tackle. If a player is determined enough and knows just when as well as how to tackle, he can come out with the ball even though he is smaller than his opponent.

"When making a tackle, play a game of patience and weigh up the best moment to go in for the ball. When the moment comes, make your move decisively and swiftly… Two good tackles from a defender early in the game, and the man who has lost the ball spends as much time afterwards worrying about the next tackle as he does in thinking what he's going to do with the ball."

SHOW FOR IT

"You can run without the ball... and simply make a sprint down the field which doesn't mean a thing, because it isn't going to support the team-mate who has the ball and is looking for someone anticipating a pass. Running off the ball requires intelligence.

"When a team-mate is in possession of the ball his attention may be concentrated on an opponent barring his way – so that's the time to use your voice, as well as your brain, by letting your team-mate know you're in a position to make a pass."

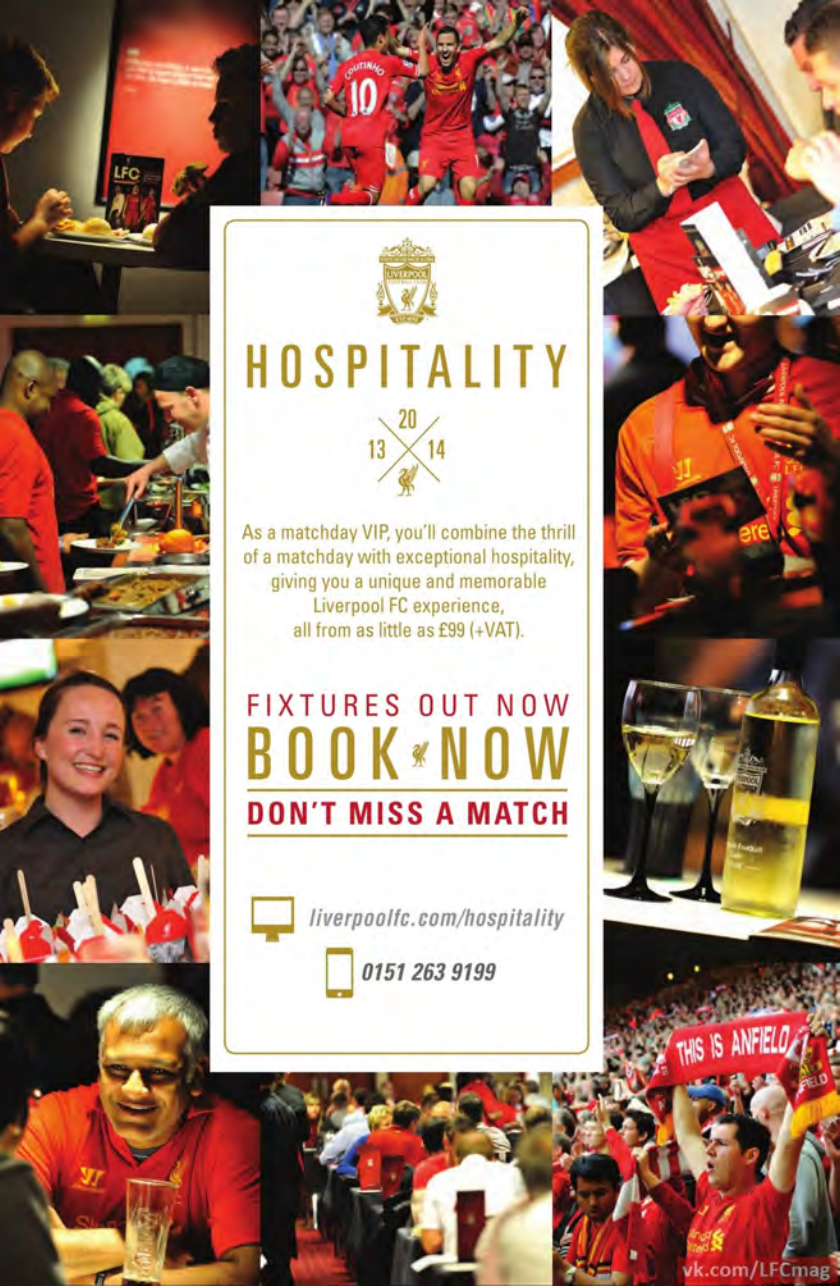


"The trick is to play within a framework where the team moves as a compact unit"

PASS AND MOVE

"Good players in good teams are prepared to move around as the flow of the game dictates – they don't just operate in straight lines like characters on a drawing board.

"The trick is to play within a framework where the team moves as a compact unit. If you're not much good at dribbling but can pass a ball extremely well, don't try to be clever and beat man after man – make the pass do the work to your side's best advantage."



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13
14
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KEEP YOUR HEAD UP

"If you are the man in possession of the ball, use your brains and ensure that you play it simply and safely but don't be afraid to bypass a team-mate who is too close, if you spot another in a better position a bit further away…

"Quickness of thought should be matched by speed of action – meaning that a quick throw can reach a team-mate before the other side has a chance to mark him."

"No matter how confident in your ability to master the ball, don't baffle yourself"



MASTER THE BALL

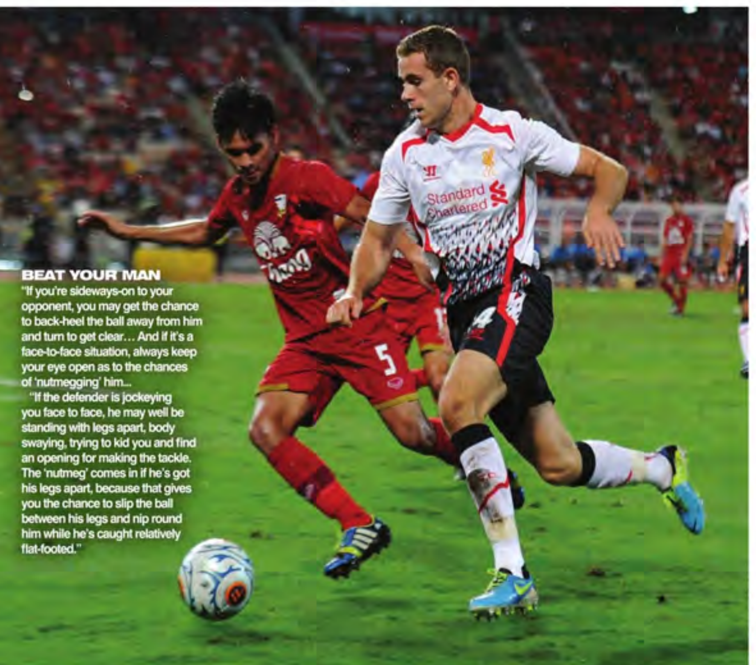
"The opposition doesn't stand around while you take your time to bring a bouncing ball under control – the secret is to make sure you move as quickly as possible towards it, and get as close to it as you can… The overall aim of every footballer should be simply to master the ball so he can control it in virtually any situation."



PLAY FOR THE TEAM

"You can beat one man or even two men – but don't be greedy, or you'll find you've taken on one man too many. Keep your eye on defenders as well as the ball.

"What you've got to be careful of, even though you are confident in your ability to master the ball, is that you don't baffle yourself – or your team-mates."



BEAT YOUR MAN

"If you're sideways-on to your opponent, you may get the chance to back-heel the ball away from him and turn to get clear… And if it's a face-to-face situation, always keep your eye open as to the chances of 'nutmegging' him...

"If the defender is jockeying you face to face, he may well be standing with legs apart, body swaying, trying to kid you and find an opening for making the tackle. The 'nutmeg' comes in if he's got his legs apart, because that gives you the chance to slip the ball between his legs and nip round him while he's caught relatively flat-footed."

PUTTING IT AWAY

"If you rely on your 'good' foot it takes time to get the ball to that foot when you receive it on your 'wrong' side. In that time you could have lost a chance to shoot at goal.

"If you receive a cross near the goal, head quickly and downwards into the goalmouth when you've got a chance of catching the keeper on the wrong side of goal… When attempting to head a ball, you should keep your eye on it until just before you make contact with your forehead. Remember that the idea is not to wait for the ball to come to you, but for you to go and meet it."

AND FINALLY…ALWAYS HAVE RESPECT

"The referee's decision is always final, and if he doesn't give a penalty when you think you should have had one it's no use arguing the toss."

Words: Aiden Cusick

100

BURNLEY (H) WON 2-1 Football League First Division 17 April 1922



The Class of 1922



After a 16-year absence the First Division Championship returned to Anfield for only the third time on what was a red letter day for the great Liverpool team of the early 20s. Having led from the front since the turn of the year the finishing line was now in sight and with four games left five points separated the Reds from second-placed Tottenham. Opponents Burnley, a further place behind in third, also began the day harbouring title aspirations but knew only a victory in front of the Kop would keep their hopes alive. With so much at stake a bumper Bank Holiday crowd of 50,000 were not left disappointed. Harry Chambers opened the scoring in the 22nd minute but the visitors quickly drew level and a nervous afternoon ensued until Dick Forshaw fired home what proved to be the winning goal 12 minutes from time. That in itself was not enough to secure the championship but when news of Tottenham's defeat to Oldham filtered through just after the final whistle Liverpool were confirmed as champions and the celebrations commenced.

PART ONE: 100 TO 91

GREATEST GAMES

A brand new series that does what it says on the tin – celebrates a century of matches involving Liverpool FC each chosen for either their excitement, significance, quality of performance and/or atmosphere. Oh when the Reds... By Mark Platt



99

SUNDERLAND (WEMBLEY) WON 2-0

FA Cup final 9 May 1992

One of the few highlights of the Graeme Souness managerial era, this triumph may have lacked the drama associated with previous victories beneath the Twin Towers but when Mark Wright hoisted the trophy above his head it provided a silver lining to what had been a difficult season. Liverpool were clear favourites against the Second Division Wearsiders but that counted for nothing when it came to football's showpiece event.

Hopes for an upset were boosted by the absence of John Barnes but rookie replacement Steve McManaman helped bring Sunderland's gallant cup run to an end with a display of youthful exuberance. There was little to separate the sides at the break but a spectacular volley from Michael Thomas and Rushie's record-breaking fifth FA Cup final goal eventually sealed our fifth success in the competition to put a brief smile back on the face of boss Souness as he recovered from heart surgery.





Clockwise from top: Michael Thomas scores the opener; the cover of the programme; Steve McManaman runs amok down the Wembley flanks





TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (H) WON 5-2

Football League First Division
12 April 1963

98



Above is how this match is re-lived in David Peace's new book *Red or Dead*. Bill Nicholson's Spurs were double winners in 1961 and the first British team to lift a European trophy two years later when they met Bill Shankly's recently-promoted Liverpool on Easter Saturday 1963. It was a fixture Liverpudlians had long been looking forward to. But when the Londoners raced into a 2-0 first-half lead through Cliff Jones and Terry Dyson the Reds looked out of their depth. During the interval Shanks reminded his team of their duty to the fans. It had the desired effect – within seven minutes of the restart Willie Stevenson reduced the deficit and the comeback was underway. Jimmy Melia levelled two minutes later and Ian St John fired the Reds into a 3-2 lead before late goals from Kevin Lewis and Melia again capped a memorable win.



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ROTHERHAM TOWN (H) WON 7-1

97

Friendly 1 September 1892

Just three months after being formed and with a team recruited entirely from Scotland, Liverpool Football Club began life in emphatic fashion. The wounds of the split from Everton were still raw when the city's newest club welcomed reigning Midland League champions Rotherham Town to Anfield for a fixture that attracted just a handful of spectators. The 'Team of Macs' however were undeterred and raced into a five-goal lead by half-time. Detailed descriptions of the goals remain sketchy but the *Liverpool Mercury* newspaper reported that the honour of scoring Liverpool's first goal went to John Miller, who later added a second. Andrew Kelvin also netted twice but it was Tom Wylie who stole the headlines with a hat-trick in the 7-1 rout. LFC were up and running.

WATFORD (A) WON 2-1

FA Cup quarter-final replay
17 March 1986

Livrpool's League and FA Cup Double dream was fading fast on this tension-packed night at Vicarage Road. Following a frustrating sixth-round goalless draw on Merseyside six nights earlier, future Reds star John Barnes had put Watford ahead in the replay with a superbly struck free-kick just after the break, and with just four minutes left on the clock that's how the score remained.

With the home fans nervously checking their watches Liverpool, resplendent in all-white away kit, poured forward frantically and were finally rewarded for their persistence when Hornets goalkeeper Tony Coton brought down Ian Rush inside the box for an obvious penalty. Classy Danish midfielder Jan Molby kept his cool from 12-yards out to force extra-time – and with a travelling army of 10,000 Kopites roaring them on the visitors stepped up a gear and booked their place in the last four of the tournament amid wild celebrations courtesy of a 108th minute winner from Rush. Next up, a semi-final showdown with Southampton at White Hart Lane.



96

How the matchday programme marked the win at Watford

95 SAN FRANCISCO ALL STARS WON 14-0

Friendly 3 June 1964

Close-season friendly matches rarely live long in the memory but this was actually Liverpool's biggest-ever victory. It was as champions of England that the Reds embarked on a close-season tour of the USA in the summer of 1964 and in their eighth game they showed the hosts how 'soccer' should be played. Those present at the Kezar Stadium were treated to a glut of goals – 14 of them ending up in the San Franciscan net. According to a watching Liverpool director, 'scoring goals in this match was to our boys just like shelling peas'. Alf Arrowsmith was the star of the show, netting five times, while stand-in keeper Trevor Roberts touched the ball just six times in the entire match such was Liverpool's overwhelming superiority.



94

BIRMINGHAM CITY (MILLENNIUM STADIUM)
WON 6-5 ON PENS

Worthington Cup final 25 February 2001

The club's first visit to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff was expected to be rather more straightforward than it turned out – but there was no complaining come the end of the day as Liverpool celebrated a first trophy win in six years. League One Birmingham City were the opponents and when Robbie Fowler's long-range strike found the net midway through the first half it was expected to be a comfortable victory. The team from St Andrews had other ideas and drew level from the penalty spot in the dying minutes of normal time. After an extra half-hour, for the first time in the competition's history a penalty shoot-out was required to determine the winner. Fortunately it was the Reds who prevailed, with Sander Westerveld's save from Andy Johnson securing the first leg of what would be an unprecedented cup treble.



You beauty! Robbie Fowler's rocket captured frame by frame

93 CORINTHIANS (CRAVEN COTTAGE) WON 5-1

Sheriff of London Charity Shield 28 April 1906

Liverpool's reward for winning a second league title in 1906 was a first invite to compete for the prestigious Sheriff of London Shield. A pre-cursor to the FA Charity/Community Shield, it was played annually back then between the best professional and amateur teams in the county. London-based Corinthian Football Club had long been considered the no1 amateurs of the day and had been winners on three previous occasions. It was an intriguing match-up that attracted a crowd of 20,000 to Craven Cottage and until Joe Hewitt broke the deadlock they witnessed an evenly fought spectacle. When Sam Raybould headed in a second before half-time the 6ft high shield – reputed to be football's largest trophy – was heading north. Hewitt went on to complete his hat-trick in a 5-1 victory as the benefits of professionalism were extolled.



The whereabouts of the hefty Sheriff of London Shield are unknown today



92 EVERTON (A) LOST 3-4

Liverpool Senior Cup final 9 May 1961

Liverpudlians don't often walk away from a derby defeat with smiles on their faces yet on this end-of-season occasion the red contingent among the heaving 50,000-plus crowd inside Goodison Park did just that – the reason being the performance of debutant Ian St John, a club record signing from Motherwell. The inside-forward, who prior to kick-off had almost been refused entry to the ground because the gateman didn't believe he was a Liverpool player, scored in the 43rd, 50th and 89th minutes. In terms of the destiny of the silverware on offer his treble may have been in vain as top-flight Everton netted four, but it was a super start for St John and one that hinted at a brighter future for the then Second Division Reds.



Ian St John pictured upon his arrival at Anfield in 1961



Alan Hansen scores against his countrymen at Anfield

91 ABERDEEN (H) WON 4-0

European Cup second-round second leg 5 November 1980

After early exits from the European Cup in the previous two seasons the press would have you believe that the English champions were once again heading for a fall in this 'Battle of Britain'. But with the cushion of an away goal and 1-0 first-leg advantage Liverpool ruthlessly exposed the deficiencies in Alex Ferguson's Dons on what turned out to be a Bonfire Night massacre at Anfield. An own-goal by visiting skipper Willie Miller silenced the large contingent of Aberdonians before Phil Neal put the tie to bed two minutes before half-time. Just to rub further salt into the wounds, Anglo-Scots Kenny Dalglish and Alan Hansen added a further two goals in the second half to complete a 5-0 aggregate win. Fergie and his deflated Dons returned north having been taught a footballing lesson while Paisley's red machine motored on towards a third European Cup success.



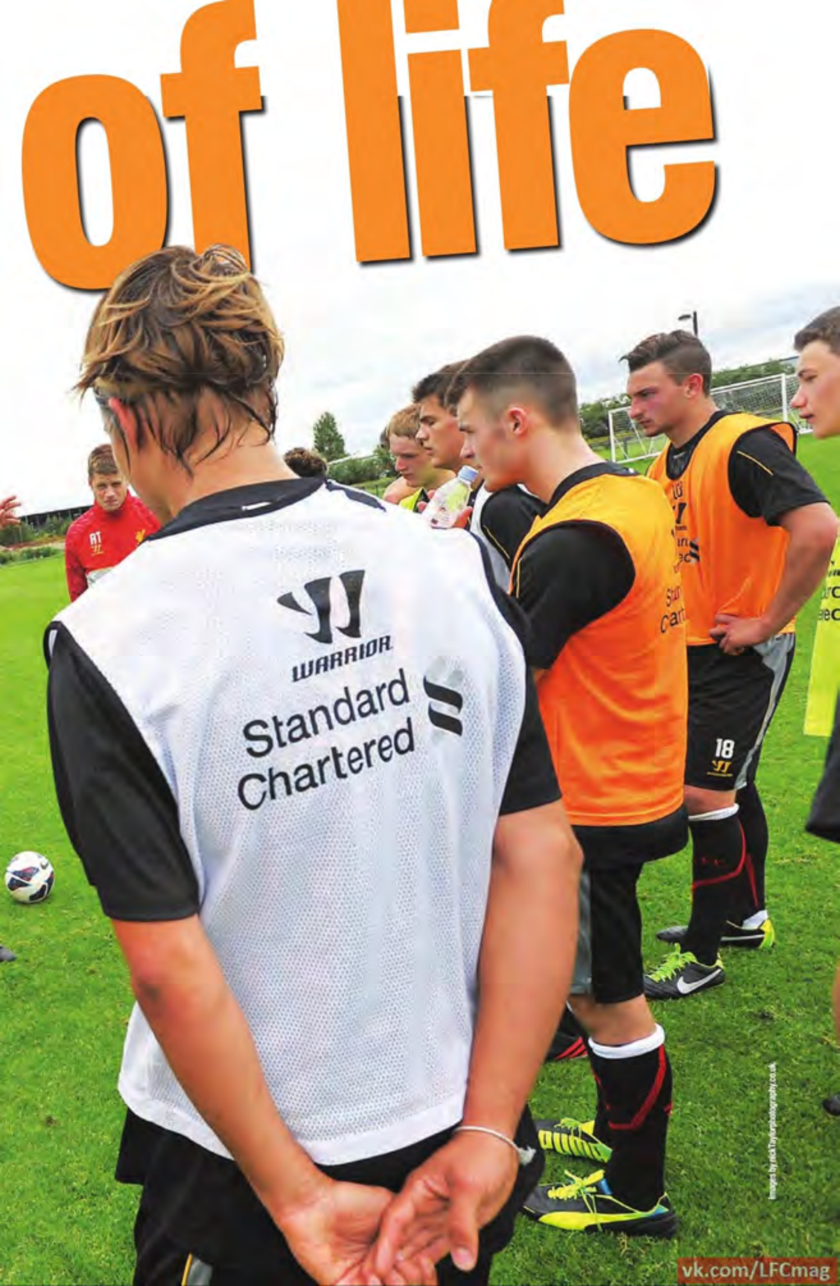
NEXT MONTH: PART TWO



School

Photographer Nick Taylor captures life at the Liverpool FC Academy at the start of 2013/14

Preparing for a new season is a vital time for every footballer and that's no exception at the Academy. In August players from the various age-groups returned to Kirkby to prepare for the new campaign, and Under 21s coach Alex Inglethorpe was delighted with the way the youngsters went about their business. He told the club's website: "This year's pre-season has been one of the best that I've been involved in. The attitude and mentality of the players was first class. We tried to make it as varied for them as we could in order to give them the best experience. The first 10 or 12 days were here at the Academy where we worked two sessions a day, and we continued it over in Ireland where we trained throughout our mini-tour."


of life
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POWER PLATE



Out on the pitch, full-back Ryan McLaughlin (opposite page, top) and Harry Wilson (bottom, left) go through their stretching exercises at Kirkby. Meanwhile goalkeepers Yusuf Mersin and Ryan Fulton (bottom, right) build up their strength on the gym equipment, while midfielder Craig Roddan (this page) works on his movement with a series of shuttle runs. Under 21s boss Inglethorpe adds: "We know the lads are a little younger this year and it's been a conscious decision from us within the Academy to play a very young side at Under 21 level. We know that, as a consequence, results this season may suffer, but we'll get a bigger picture of where we're going to be in 18 months' time."



Striker Adam Morgan, pictured wearing the no59 training top here, is hoping for a strong 2013/14 will be a good campaign. "Pre-season was good although I had a hamstring injury which was a bit restrictive. I'm fit now and I'm just hoping to get a run of games and play as much as I can. I had a loan spell at Rotherham last season which added to my experience and llearned from it." Morgan opened his scoring account in the U21s 4-2 win at Manchester United last month. "It's important to get the season off to a good start. We did well with a young team last season and hopefully we will continue that."


37
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10
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While most of the young players' work took place at Kirkby, there was also an opportunity to sample the surroundings of Melwood during last month's international break. Inglethorpe says: "The youth team and the reserves both went along and I think the support we get from Brendan Rodgers, Colin Pascoe, John Achterberg and Mike Marsh is outstanding. They are always at the Academy and they are always coming down to ask about how the players are progressing. When the season gets underway it's more usual than not I'll get a phone call in the morning from Melwood asking for a player or two to go up and train there." Right, Yalany Baio slaloms through training poles while, opposite page, fitness trainer Remy Tang works with Nathan Burke and Connor Randall in the gymnasium.


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Neil MELLOR

Young guns are great but let's hear it for the experienced heads as well

In this column over the last 12 months, I have written a lot about the younger players in the squad at Liverpool: their abilities, their prospects and the perils that lay ahead of them once they've been touched by first-team football. It's important to recognise the importance of the experienced players as well, however.

There is such a focus in football now about unearthing the next special talent. It has become an obsession. Possibly, it started when Wayne Rooney burst onto the scene at Everton. The attitude was: if there's one player out there like Rooney, there must be more.

Perhaps the focus has been taken away from the importance of having experience in the side. In the teams that I've played in, it has usually been the experienced players that have helped heave the team across the line at the most crucial moments.

When I was breaking through ten years ago, there was experience and characters in the changing-rooms. Having people like Didi Hamann, Gary McAllister and Jamie Redknapp around the place was vital. They were all winners on and off the pitch.

I also saw Jamie Carragher as one of the senior men, even though he was relatively young. Everyone looked towards him for leadership. His importance to the team and the squad grew and grew. Replacing someone like him was going to be impossible.

Prior to his groin strain, which was a real shame, Kolo Toure had come in and started really well. He could prove to be one of the bargain signings of the summer for any club in the Premier League. How many players are available on a free transfer with more than 100 caps for their country and two league winners' medals behind them? Not many.

Those involved in his recruitment including Brendan Rodgers deserve a huge amount of credit for picking him out if he continues like this.

There was always the concern about motivation at the age of 32. But he seems more motivated than ever. You see the enthusiasm in him – it's like watching an 18-year-old who's just broken into the team. Qualities like enthusiasm and determination are infectious. It encourages every player in the squad to follow: young and old.



Kolo Toure's start in the red shirt was imperious

> "Qualities like enthusiasm and determination are infectious in football"

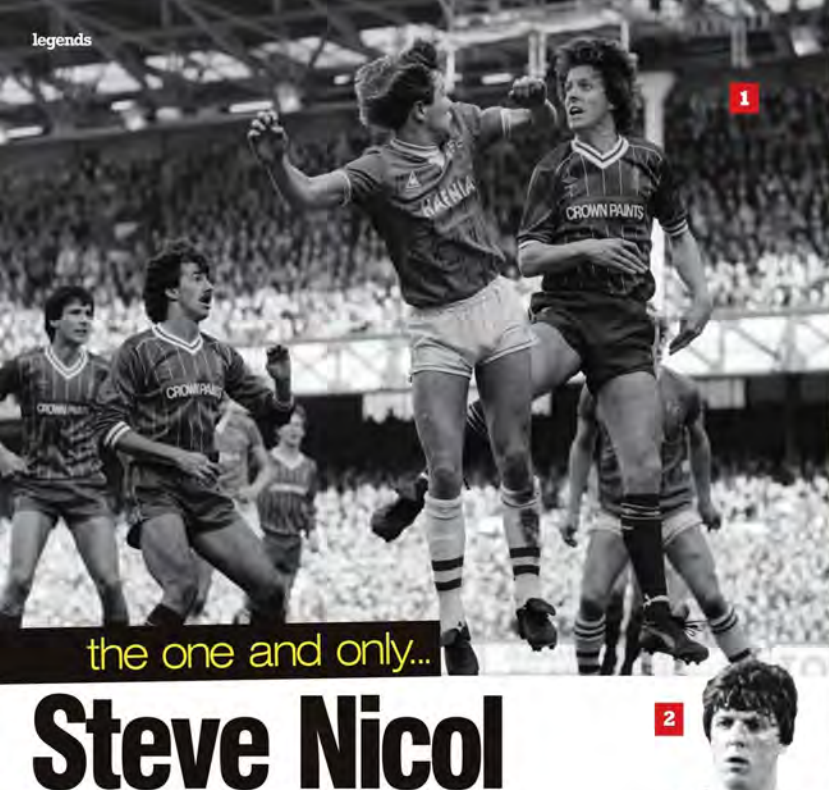
As a young footballer, I was fortunate to start in many reserve matches where first-team players also featured. Sometimes they'd be on my side. Other times I'd be facing them. Personally it made me raise my game. On one occasion, I scored against Paul Robinson, the Leeds goalkeeper who'd already been in the England squad. It gave me great confidence.

I thought that everybody in the team benefited from having Fabio Borini and Martin Kelly around when Alex Inglethorpe's Under 21 team beat Manchester United 4-2 last month, although I know the culture of reserve-team football has shifted now and I appreciate why it isn't possible to do this as regularly.

Encouragingly, Liverpool seem to have figured out a way to offer their young players the right experience. The Under 21 team this season so far has largely been made up of players aged between 16 and 19. Those slightly older ones have gone out on loan to football league clubs or abroad with Krisztian Adorjan in Holland at Groningen and Suso in Spain at Almeria.

It means that younger players are playing against better and older players a lot earlier. You've got 16-year-olds like Jordan Rossiter or even a 15-year-old like Harry Wilson playing against lads who are five or six years older than them.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



the one and only...

Steve Nicol

There are many apocryphal tales about Steve Nicol. On one occasion, he was supposedly left in the icy cold near Carlisle by club and country team-mates Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness while en route to an international gathering after being asked to get out of the carand clear the windscreen of heavy snow.

Alan Hansen insisted he could have eaten for Britain. "Nutritionists would have been horrified," he said. Despite having a diet that consisted of crisps and bottles of pop, Nicol was also a world-class footballer.

He was no average player. Nor was he an average utility man. He was shifted around because he was brilliant – able to play in almost any position and still be one of the most influential performers on the pitch. Whatever problem, this versatile footballer could not just fix it, but make it better than its previous form.

Bob Paisley bought Nicol, then 19 years old, in October 1981 as a potential replacement for Phil Neal. He cost £300,000 from Ayr United where he was on a part-time contract while looking for employment as an out-of-work labourer.

Naturally two-footed, Nicol started out at right-back, moved to right midfield, then to left-back, central midfield and centre-half. He was a great defender but a great attacker too. After a month of the 1987/88 season, he led the goalscoring charts having registered six in Liverpool's first six league games, three of which came from the right-midfield position during an away match at Newcastle United.

Steve's importance was officially recognised with a Football Writers' Association's player of the year award in 1988/89, after filling six different positions that season. By the time he left Liverpool after 11 years, he had played 468 games, scoring 46 times.

1. Beating Everton's Adrian Heath to the ball in the Merseyside derby of March 1984 as team-mates Hansen and Lawrenson look on.
2. Just 22 and walking up to take first spot-kick in the shoot-out at the end of the 84 European Cup final.
3. Posing for the LFC matchday programme upon signing in 1981.
4. A big hug for Bruce Grobbelaar at Villa Park after Liverpool had beaten Portsmouth on penalties in the FA Cup semi-final replay of April 1992.
5. Lining up in a Scotland wall with team-mates Roy Aitken, Graeme Sharp, Paul Sturrock and Paul McStay, during a group game against Uruguay at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.
6. Steve's spot-kick clears the crossbar against Roma in 1984 – but the Reds were still victorious.



Naturally two-footed Nicol could play anywhere in the team if required





6



From despa

You make your own luck in this



ir...

game, says Liverpool Ladies midfielder Amanda Da Costa

August brought the return of the English Premier League to the world, and the return to the FAWSL for the Liverpool Ladies. After a month-long hiatus in the league due to the Women's European Championships, our team took to a mid-season 'pre-season' in order to prepare for our return.

The word 'expectations' weighed upon us heavily for the first half of the season, and the pressure doesn't appear to be subsiding any time soon. Football is full of expectations and pressure: expectations to be great and live up to the new direction of the club; expectations to continue winning in the second half of the season; expectations to win the league... Our character was certainly being tested >



three games into the second half of the season and things weren't going as smoothly for us as they once were.

We reached a stretch in the season where we played three matches in seven days, which placed quite a lot of stress on my body and brain. We kicked off our return to the FAWSL against one of the best teams in the league, former champions Arsenal. We'd both lost and won to them previously in the season, and there was a lot at stake for this particular game. Sometimes things don't click on the pitch. This was the case for us against Arsenal. We fell to them 0-3 – an incredibly disappointing result for us, but in football you have to have a short memory.

With a quick turnaround the Continental Cup semi-final game against Lincoln was next for us a few days later. We were flying high after an early Natasha Dowie goal put us up 1-0, but Lincoln were able to level the score late in the second half. After 120 minutes and five penalty-kick takers later, we continued our fall from the top and were handed our second loss of the week. But when you get knocked down, you need to get back up again.

Our attention was then directed at Bristol, a must-win game for us as we could no longer afford any more league losses if we wanted to keep our dream of winning the league alive. Bristol had been battling us for top spot all season and would not be an easy match. Despite our fatigue from the last two games we rallied together and after 90 minutes of fighting were able to finally break the pattern and

"A good team finds a way to win against the odds"

ight

record a win. A screamer from our captain Gemma Bonner put us up 4-3 with less than 10 minutes of regulation time left – a win in dramatic fashion. We got knocked down – but we were standing at the top of the table again!

A week of training after such a week was exactly what we needed. We were able to regroup and analyse the past few games in order to figure out where our problem areas were. We were fresh and recuperated, and ready to register a win against Chelsea.

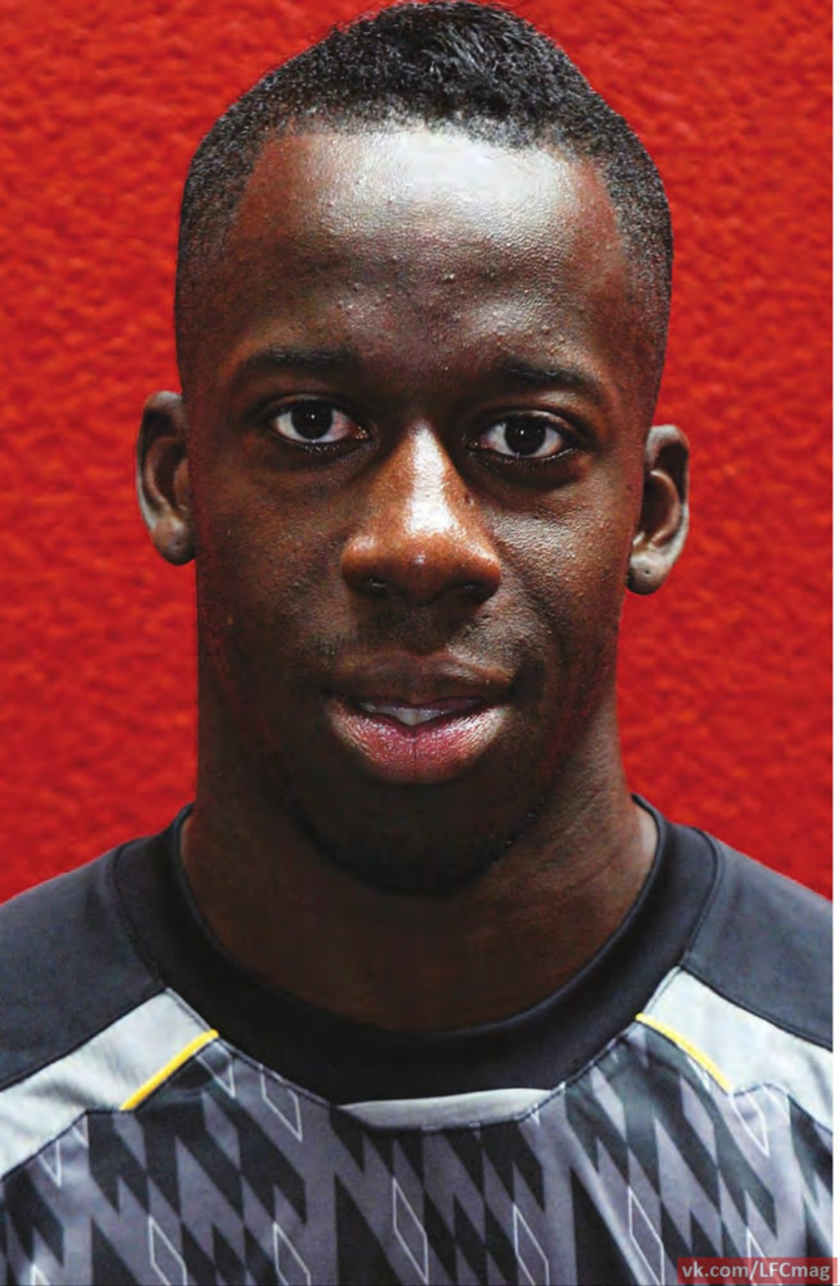
Football is a funny game. You can go into a match feeling confident one second and then before you have time to blink things seem to be spiralling out of your control. Chelsea are a fighting team with whom we'd had difficulty throughout the season despite their low position in the league table.

Our confidence was tested six minutes into the match when we found ourselves in a team huddle after Chelsea netted their second goal. We were playing good football, but all it took was Chelsea exploiting two mistakes. In a previous diary entry of mine I spoke about this team's ability to 'set themselves on fire' as inspired by one of my favorite quotes. When the game clearly wasn't going our way, we forced our luck to change.

The game continued to go back and forth. We went into half-time down 1-2 and were able to tie things up early on in the second half. Chelsea took the lead again shortly after but couldn't handle our late pressure. We went on to win 4-3 off a late winner from Nicole Rolser – a result and a match very similar to our win against Bristol – and found ourselves still at the top.

Our rollercoaster return to the FAWSL had been exhausting on many different levels, but if there is one thing we have proven it is this: a good team wins matches when they are expected to; a great team finds a way to win when the cards are stacked against them. I've never been more confident in the character and talent of this Liverpool FC Ladies team. It is a long road to our final game but I don't want to return to New York without having first lifted the League trophy with my teammates.

Follow Amanda on Twitter @ADacosta13 and the team



"THIS TIME LAST YEAR I PLAYED MY FIRST GAME FOR VALENCIA. AGAINST MESSI AT THE NOU CAMP. I DID OKAY"

Aly Cissokho explains how he got from there to here. *David Cottrell* sorts through the photos

There's a Friday afternoon team meeting at Melwood to attend – be there on time or be fined, is the rule – and the new boy doesn't want to keep anyone waiting. But with a few seconds of this interview still left Aly Cissokho can't help but linger over the last of photos that we've slid under his nose. It's a shot of him in Valencia colours lunging at a dribbling Lionel Messi, taken roughly this time last year.

"I'd not long joined Valencia from Lyon and it was my first competitive game in Spain. Away at Barcelona. Up against Messi, the world's top striker, and his team in their own backyard. There was a lot of pressure to do well and it wasn't easy – he's so quick. In the end we lost 1-0 but I'd had a decent game and the coaching staff and manager were satisfied."

Twelve months after that baptism of fire for the team in white, black and orange, his debut for Liverpool came in the heat of a second-half onslaught by Aston Villa on their own ground on the second Saturday of the Premier League season. This time it was Aly's new team which won by the single goal. With 20 minutes remaining he came on for Aspas and played on the left, allowing Coutinho to support Sturridge in the centre and Henderson to switch to the right of midfield.

The 25-year-old's first involvement at Villa Park was a neat combination with Jose Enrique, the man for whom he's been acquired on loan to provide competition. Radio presenter and former Liverpool striker Stan Collymore described Cissokho that day as "a whopping athlete of a man…almost like a striker playing out as a wide man." When asked now what kind of player he is, Aly says simply: "My strengths are speed and power." Sure enough, the common denominator in several of the shots we show him is a touchline, an opponent straining to keep up, and Cissokho at full pelt.



September 2012: Cissokho v Messi

Amid all the transfer-window talk, in a period dominated by the procrastinations of a Brazilian midfielder leaving a Russian club in a supposed fire sale, Aly slipped into Anfield almost unnoticed by the media. If he had to choose just three words to describe the fortnight leading up to his arrival they'd be – in French – "impatient…occupé …et…football!" Impatient, busy and…you get the drift. He couldn't wait to be here.

Born to Senegalese parents in Blois, a town 100 miles southwest of Paris, he's one of four footballing brothers. After a first full season, 2007/08, with Gueugnon in the Burgundy region of central France, came a whirlwind six months in which he moved to Vitoria Setubal of Portugal in June then FC Porto the following January. One season at the Estadio do Dragao was enough to persuade Olympique Lyonnais to bring him back to France for €15 million. Last year he became a Valencia player but for the next 12 months he says his aim is to help Liverpool fight for Champions League qualification. The day he arrived on Merseyside he told the club's website: "The chance to play for a legendary club like Liverpool is something I've always dreamed about."

Cissokho's spell in the blue-and-white stripes of FC Porto lasted six months, but he reckons it's the happiest he's been as a footballer. We show him a photo from a 1-0 home win over Estrela da Amadora in April 2009 (below) that kept Porto top of the table – a game followed swiftly by the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final with Manchester United. The teams had drawn 2-2 at Old Trafford and a solitary goal from former Sporting Lisbon star Ronaldo (right) sent United through. That same evening in another of the quarter-finals Liverpool drew 4-4 at Chelsea to bow out of the tournament with pride intact.

"I'd come to Porto after half-a-season with Vitoria Setubal, whose coaching staff had said if I kept working hard I could go a long way. But at that moment I wasn't sure if I believed it.

"The move to Porto happened so quickly. Six months with Setubal and suddenly I was playing with all these top players who represented their countries, under a great coach [Jesualdo Ferreira] in a fantastic stadium. It was the first time I'd been at a really big club but the organisation within it was superb and it was a happy time for me. We won the Portuguese league and cup and reached the last eight of the Champions League."

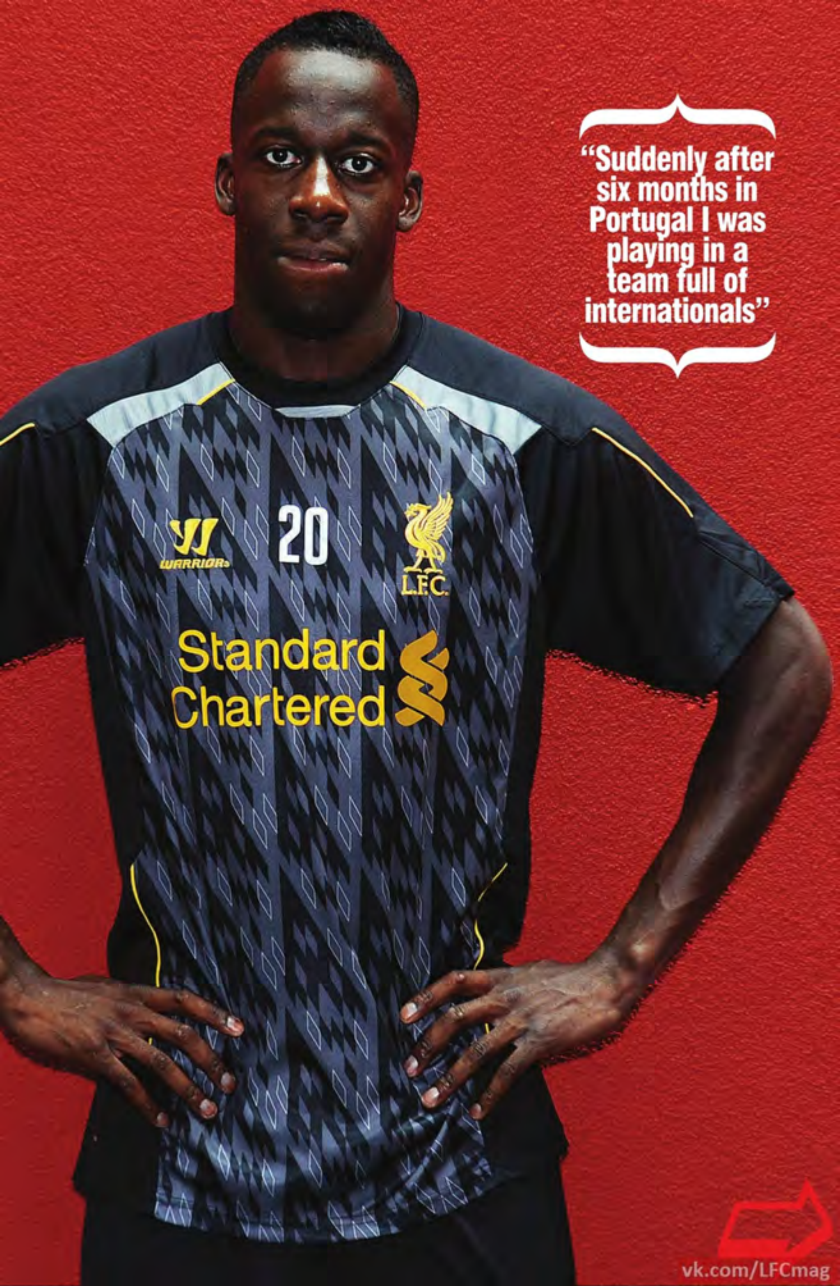


So near yet so far against Ronaldo's Manchester United


Taking on Hugo Gomes of Estrela da Amadora

Alongside Cissokho in the triumphant Porto team, which beat neighbours Pacos de Ferreira in the cup final to clinch the double (celebrating below), were future Liverpool midfielder Raul Meireles and striker Lisandro Lopez, who would also sign for Lyon. "This was my first title and first trophies as a player," recalls Aly, "so it will always be special to look back upon. We celebrated not just among ourselves but with the whole city."




"Suddenly after six months in Portugal I was playing in a team full of internationals"
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L.F.C.
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Carra-gheur!" says Aly when he's shown a shot of himself chasing down a ball with the former Reds centre-half during the Champions League group game between Olympique Lyonnais (OL) and Liverpool in November 2009. It was a fixture remembered for Ryan Babel's 83rd-minute thunderbolt which was cancelled out in the last minute by Lisandro – a goal that sent the French club through to the knock-out stage for the seventh season running.

Two weeks earlier OL had won at Anfield in similarly last-gasp circumstances. Liverpool, with David Ngog deputising upfront for the injured Fernando Torres, lost Steven Gerrard to injury after 25 minutes. Yossi Benayoun put the Reds ahead only for Lyon subs Maxime Gonalons and Cesar Delgado (in added time) to clinch a win for the visitors who'd made the most of their visit to the city.

"We came here three or four days earlier and stayed in Formby," recalls Cissokho. "We went to the Beatles Museum then prepared thoroughly for the game. It was an extraordinary few days for us – the build-up to the match, the fact that we got here really early, and then of course to win with such a late goal. But I think what really hit us all was the atmosphere at Anfield. And because I'd followed English football I was familiar with all the players in the Liverpool team. It was a special night.

"As it goes last year I played with Carragher in a charity match in Corsica. Along with Emile Heskey we were in an XI picked by Gerard Houllier to play a Bastia team [to honour the 20th anniversary of the tragedy at Bastia's Furiani Stadium in which a temporary stand collapsed before a cup tie and killed 18 people]."

Cissokho had moved to Lyon on the same July 2011 day that Brazilian winger Michel Bastos, now with Al Ain in the UAE Pro-League, joined the club. The pair became good friends over the course of the next three

"What really hit all of us in the Lyon team was the atmosphere at Anfield, it was special"


November 2009: racing Carra for it in Lyon

Challenging Ngog in the group game at Anfield



Caught by Marseille's Diawara; signing for OL with Bastos; and celebrating his goal against Debrecen

seasons, with Aly displacing Italian international Fabio Grosso as first-choice left-back. "I was sad to leave Porto but to return to France and join at the time the biggest club in France, it was a massive move for me. It also gave me an opportunity to knock on the door of the national team."

Prior to the two Champions League group games against Liverpool in October and November 2009 he'd given an interview to UEFA's website and been asked which player inspired him. The answer: "Steven Gerrard – he is the epitome of pace and power. Obviously we don't play in the same position but he is a great example. He never ever gives up and for that alone he is a great example to all. Personally he is an inspiration because of his quickness and strength."

In that first season Cissokho started all 14 of the side's Champions League games as coach Claude Puel guided them to the last four. He scored too in the group game at home to Debrecen – below he's celebrating his powerful strike that beat the keeper at his near post to complete a 4-0 victory over the Hungarians on the night. Elsewhere Liverpool were losing 2-1 at home to Fiorentina who'd top the group with OL also qualifying in second place. "It was my first goal in the competition. Playing at the back it doesn't happen often so it's special when you do score, especially in the Champions League.

"We'd made a great start to that season, doing well in the league and getting out of a difficult Champions League group with Liverpool in it. We then beat Real Madrid in the round of 16 and Bordeaux in the quarter-finals before going out in the semis to Bayern Munich [who lost to Jose Mourinho's Inter in the final]. The next year we got to the round of 16 but this time Real Madrid knocked us out."

"The fans of Lyon are like the Liverpool supporters – passionate about football"





With jubilant Lyon team-mates during a win over Marseille


At Clairefontaine with Anelka and the French national team


French cup winner and new kit ambassador on the streets of Lyon

The next lot of photos brings smiles of recognition from Cissokho. In the summer of 2010 he and his Olympique Lyonnais team-mates mixed with fans in the centre of town at a grand launch of the team's new kit. "It was like a big party. The fans in Lyon are how I'd imagine the Liverpool fans are – very passionate about their team and a good rapport with the players. It was a massive day with a new kit sponsor and the whole thing was organised by Jean-Michel Aulas, the club president of Lyon.

"There's me at the back," he continues, pointing to a picture of five OL players by the corner flag (left)celebrating a goal against rivals Marseille in September 2011. "We won 2-0 I think. [Bafetimbi] Gomis and Bastos got the goals." The result sent the home side to the top of Ligue 1 and left Marseille in bottom spot.

That same day Liverpool crashed 4-0 at Tottenham but this was the season that the Reds went to Wembley three times and won the Carling Cup. For their part Olympique Lyonnais finished fourth in the table (Marseille ended up 10th) but lifted their fifth straight French Cup, beating minnows US Quevilly from Normandy in the final – after which Aly was photographed at the homecoming outside Lyon's City Hall.

He has one French cap to date. He was called up for the first time in November 2009 as back-up for Patrice Evra and was on the bench at Dublin's Croke Park for France's World Cup play-off with the Republic of Ireland. He failed the cut for the 23-man squad for the finals in South Africa but made his debut in a friendly against Norway in August 2010. "I've been to a few get-togethers and even when you don't play it's nice to train alongside great players like Nicolas Anelka [above]. I just hope now with some good displays for Liverpool I'll be able to get back into the reckoning."



> **"I'd love to help Liverpool get back into the Champions League places this season"**





Training with Glen Johnson and first game for LFC at Villa Park



So to the last 12 months and Valencia where Aly was a team-mate of striker Roberto Soldado, now with Tottenham. Here's Cissokho competing for the ball with Atletico de Madrid's Diego Costa (above) last March in a 1-1 draw in the Spanish capital, and more recently in August this year beating Everton's Nikica Jelavic to a header in a pre-season tournament in Miami. Aly supplied the cross for Michel Herrero's winner.

"Playing in Spain has been a fantastic experience," he concludes. "I've learned a lot there in one year. When you train and play alongside top players – as well as against Messi, Ronaldo and Falcao – you can only improve your own technique. It's too early for me to compare La Liga and the Premier League, but in the Spanish game the accent is on small, skilled, technical players whereas here it's maybe more about power.

"All I know is it's going to be tough but I hope to feature in as many games for Liverpool as possible. I've been lucky to experience a Champions League night at Anfield and I'd love to help the team bring them back."


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KEVIN KEEG
LIVE IN HAM



AN BURG

When the pocket dynamo left for Hamburg in 1977 he had the world at his feet – and two sheepdogs on the 19th floor. By John Hynes



SO LONG LIVERPOOL

In Rome in the early hours of 26 May 1977 a stripped-to-the-waist Kevin Keegan celebrated Liverpool's maiden European Cup win by singing the old sailors shanty *The Leaving of Liverpool*. The sight of the no7 doing so during the after-match banquet must have briefly dampened spirits.

Twelve months earlier Keegan had reached a compromise with club chairman John Smith that the campaign would be his last at Anfield and the club would sell him for £500,000 (just under £3 million in today's money) and no more. *World Soccer* magazine reported that Bayern Munich called the fee 'ridiculous' and that the figure also ended Borussia Monchengladbach's interest. Barcelona and Real Madrid were also said to be admirers of Keegan but neither submitted an offer.

Instead his destination was Hamburger SV, an ambitious club from the second largest city in Germany and one of the founder members of the Bundesliga in 1963 (a few months after The Beatles had ended their playing stint in the city). HSV were hoping to build on three top-six finishes in the league and their European Cup Winners Cup final triumph over Anderlecht a fortnight before Liverpool's glorious night in Rome.

WILLKOMMEN IN DEUTSCHLAND

A fresh challenge was part of Keegan's reason for leaving England – and that's exactly what he found when he arrived at the Volksparkstadion. German entrepreneur Dr Peter Krohn was running the club and wanted to increase their profile.

One writer on the website *BundesligaFanatic* recalls: 'Krohn was among the first in German football to realise that good, clever and innovative marketing could lead to higher profits. Spectacular events during training sessions, tournaments during the summer break, and selling ad-space on the jersey were among the moves that transformed [Hamburger's] deficit into a surplus. Krohn lured the fans into the stadium by letting them vote on the club's transfer policy. Players were bought according to the fans vote. Being a business-savvy man, Krohn made tickets more expensive in order to follow the fans' wishes'.

The players were also persuaded to wear pink jerseys - to encourage more women to go to HSV games! But when Krohn revealed how much 26-year-old Keegan was earning – reportedly £100,000 a year – it immediately created dressing-room tension. Having won the Cup Winners Cup a few weeks previously, the team felt they didn't need any new signings.

That success had come under popular coach Kuno Klotzer, who was replaced by new man Rudi Gutendorf with Krohn declaring: "I have complete confidence in him and between us we shall lead Hamburg to new glories."

Speaking to the BBC earlier this year the vastly experienced Gutendorf recalled, "The Hamburger players came to my room and said: 'We don't like this English guy. We won the cup

> **"The players came to my room and said: we don't like this English guy"**

and we don't need him and we don't like him. If you put this little English guy in, we don't want to work with you'.

"But I wanted to make a very big team like Bayern Munich and with Keegan it was possible. I'm sure today that the players made sabotage against me. The first game of the season we lost 5-2 and I saw that my players didn't like to win."

As if club politics weren't difficult enough, Kevin and his wife Jean spent their early weeks living on the 19th floor of a hotel along with their sheepdogs. 'There wasn't even a balcony for the dogs to get some fresh air,' Keegan wrote in his autobiography, 'and the other problems this situation created I will leave to your imagination'.





ALL CHANGE

HSV made a poor start to the new season and in the space of a few October days Krohn and Gutendorf both departed. Turkish-born assistant coach Ozcan Arkoc, formerly the team's goalkeeper, took charge yet there was no sudden upturn in Keegan's fortunes – not least when he was reunited with his old pals for a two-legged European Super Cup final. A 1-1 draw with Liverpool in Germany was followed by a thumping 6-0 defeat back at Anfield, with Terry McDermott grabbing a hat-trick and the Kop chanting 'We all agree – Dalglish is better than Keegan' and 'You should have stayed at Anfield'.

The Bundesliga's winter break didn't provide any solace. A friendly against VfB Lubeck – a side from a neighbouring port-city in northern Germany – saw him sent off for punching a defender. The result was a fine, a ban and, as etiquette dictated, Keegan had to return to Lubeck and apologise to their fans.

One reason for optimism was the appointment as club general manager of Gunter Netzer, in place of Krohn. The 1974 World Cup-winning midfielder had played for Borussia Moenchengadbach against Liverpool in the 1973 UEFA Cup final before moving to Real Madrid, and under him HSV improved to finish sixth. Keegan's 12 goals and busy industry began to make him a popular figure on the terraces, with the supporters referring to him as 'Mighty Mouse' – this despite some of his team-mates still refusing to pass the ball to him.

During the summer of 1978 an unexpected opportunity to return to England materialised. While in London commentating alongside Brian Clough on World Cup games beamed back from Argentina, he was asked by the Nottingham Forest boss if a move to the City Ground appealed. Keegan declined and headed back to Hamburg to find that Netzer had appointed Yugoslavian Branko Zebec as the new team manager. A strict figure, Zebec got rid of those players whom he felt were poisoning the atmosphere and introduced a punishing training regime.

Keegan felt it limited his life to just playing, training and sleeping. But the result was a team in such good shape that it claimed the German title in 1978/79 by winning 21 of its 34 fixtures. Keegan was instrumental and named European player of the year for the second consecutive season.

Wth Bayern ace Paul Breitner; piggy-back from team-mate Horst Hrubesch; signing an autograph for a fan

In KK's first season the 1977/78 Bundesliga title was won by FC Koln on goal difference from Borussia Moenchengladbach. On the final day Borussia beat Dortmund 12-0 but Koln beat St Pauli 5-0 to hang on by just three goals!



TOP OF THE POPS

At that point Keegan's initial two-year contract was up. Real Madrid were again said to be interested in him along with Italian giants Juventus. But it was American outfit the Washington Diplomats that came closest to acquiring his signature with a reported fee of £250,000 for a four-month season in the USA.

Netzer, keen not to lose his star, suggested a temporary move to the United States. With a Concorde flight ready to take Keegan across the Atlantic, it was pointed out that a spell in America would mean Kevin couldn't play in the European Cup until the semi-finals due to UEFA's player registration rules. One of the biggest incentives to stay with Hamburger was the chance to compete in the premier European tournament again, so Keegan stayed put – with a pay rise. He also became the face of club sponsor BP, appearing on TV as 'Super Kev', a hero who helped people to save energy. The Diplomats had to settle for their second choice, Johan Cruyff.

Keegan famously found time to release a single entitled *Head Over Heels In Love*. Written by Chris Norman and Pete Spencer of English



band Smokie, it was actually the brainchild of Keegan's Yugoslav team-mate Ivan Buljan and his music-producer friends, and it went on to sell 220,000 copies in Germany while also reaching no29 in England.

Kevin was offered royalties or a one-off fee of £20,000 for recording the track. Believing it wouldn't sell, he settled for the latter option. It meant the Yugoslavs who put the deal together made a fortune, one of them using his proceeds to buy a Porsche.

Washington Diplomats tried and failed to sign Keegan – they settled for Johan Cruyff

AUF WIEDERSEHEN KEV...

Having departed Anfield with a European Cup medal, Keegan's aim was to do the same with Hamburger at the end of the 1979/80 campaign. It looked possible after they eliminated a Dinamo Tbilisi side that had knocked out Liverpool and then defeated Hajduk Split to move in to the semi-finals of the competition.

Then came a 2-0 reverse against Real Madrid in the away leg of the semi-finals, with the final due to be played back at the Bernabeu in the Spanish capital. But at the Volksparkstadion in the return match Keegan and his colleagues destroyed Real Madrid to win 5-1. By the end the Spaniards were so exasperated that midfielder (and future coach) Vicente del Bosque was sent off for trying to punch Keegan. Waiting in the final were Clough's Forest, the holders, but a dull encounter ensued with a John Robertson strike settling it.

By then Keegan had made it known, somewhat surprisingly, that he was set to join Southampton. It had been rumoured again that he was going to Juventus, with Liverpool not minded to activate their buy-back option.

The move to the Dell bizarrely came about after Saints boss Lawrie McMenemy reportedly phoned Keegan to ask about a special type of light fitting that was only produced in Hamburg. From there discussions progressed quickly and quietly – so quietly in fact that when Keegan was unveiled at a hotel just outside Southampton the journalists present were stunned. McMenemy had told the press they'd be meeting "someone who'd play a big part in the club's future" and most hacks had expected to interview an architect who would design a new stadium.

Keegan spent two years on the South Coast helping an exciting side that also included veterans Mick Channon and Alan Ball to finish sixth in the table in his debut 1980/81 campaign, just a point behind European Cup winners Liverpool.

Just recently, to celebrate 50 years of the domestic league in Germany, the website *Bundesliga* interviewed former stars and Keegan commented: "The Bundesliga brings back great memories. We only played route-one football in England in those days, while in the Bundesliga the game was much more flexible. Our coaches taught us a pressing game that was unparalleled in world football."

Mobbed by young fans; a spot of gardening; with Peter Krohn, Ivan Buljan and Rudi Gutendorf; on the beach in Spain



88 **GATES TO GLORY**
Who was responsible for creating them?

The bit at the back for Liverpool's legions of fans at home and all over the world…



76 It's Rickie and the Saints



80 We're going to Wearside



84 Following LFC Ladies



96 A great Red is defined as...

The month

DON'T MISS ANY OF THE BUILD-UP ON LFC TV

3PM ON SATURDAY

Liverpool will experience their first three o'clock Saturday kick-off of the 2013/14 Barclays Premier League campaign when Mauricio Pochettino brings his exciting Southampton side to Anfield on 21 September. The Reds will be aiming for a second successive home win against the Saints – last season's fixture at the start of December brought a 1-0 win courtesy of a Daniel Agger header on 43 minutes.

Five days before the Southampton game, boss Brendan Rodgers, Colin Pascoe, Joe Allen and Fabio Borini will return to Swansea City for LFC's first taste of Monday-night football in 2013/14. Last season's trip to the Liberty Stadium ended goalless despite Liverpool dominating at times.



NON-LEAGUE DAY

While the Premier League takes a break for internationals, Saturday 7 September has been designated National Non-League Day and Jamie Carragher has given his full support. The day gives fans across the country the chance to see what's going on at a club that might be on their doorstep but they may be unfamiliar with. To find a fixture in your area, visit **www.nonleagueday.co.uk**.

ahead

ANNIVERSARIES

24 years since the Reds beat Crystal Palace 9-0 on 12 September.
32 years since Ian Rush scored his first goal for LFC on 30 September.
39 years since the club's record victory – 11-0 v Stromsgodset.
45 years since goalkeeper Ray Clemence made his debut for Liverpool.
49 years since the Reds defeated Reykjavik in their first Euro tie at Anfield.
67 years since an epic 7-4 win over Chelsea on 7 September.



BIRTHDAYS

Scott Carson 28 on	3 Sep
Markus Babbel 41 on	8 Sep
Jack Robinson 20 on	01 Sep
Stephane Henchoz 39 on	7 Sep
Luis Alberto 21 on	28 Sep
Ronnie Whelan 52 on	25 Sep
Kevin Lewis 73 on	19 Sep
John Aldridge 55 on	18 Sep
Alun Evans 64 on	30 Sep
Daniel Sturridge 24 on	01 Sep
Karlheinz Riedle 48 on	16 Sep



Q&A: STEVE HUNTER COMMENTATOR FOR LFC TV & WEBSITE



First game you attended as a fan?
It was always my dream to go to Anfield but we could never afford it. My mum saved up for about 10 years to take me to my first Liverpool game. It was against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday 29 September 1984. We were in the Paddock and Liverpool lost 2-0. You may recall a famous Imre Varadi goal when Brucie Grobbelaar charged miles off his line and missed the ball.
Despite the result you couldn't keep me away after that. I was hooked and for years I had a season-ticket right behind Kenny's dugout.

Favourite player growing up?
It was Kenny Dalglish, 'the King'. Although Emlyn Hughes, Phil Neal and Jan Molby came a close second.

First game you commentated on?
The first game I ever commentated on was for hospital radio, Tranmere Rovers v Bradford in 1991. For the club website it was 16 April 2000 LFC v Wimbledon at Selhurst Park.

How hard is it to separate being a fan and doing your job?
Depending on the opposition, it can be difficult. The big thing is you just have to be responsible. You are representing the club so you have to be respectful. I do go mad when we score, but you have to be careful about celebrating too much at certain grounds!

Assuming Istanbul is the best game you've commentated on, what's number two on your list?
That's a tough question. Istanbul was definitely the best. We had to do it on a mobile phone due to some technical issues! I loved the FA Cup semi-final win over Everton at Wembley. The occasion was magic with the emotional tributes for the 96 and Gary Ablett (the nicest bloke ever). It felt like a final. This is so difficult to answer. I'll say the Steven Gerrard final from 2006. All of the victories in Cardiff were amazing but that day had to top the lot. One man pushed himself and his team to the limit.



Funniest moment?
One that stands out was at the Rajamangala Stadium in Thailand in 2001. Paul Rogers(head of international digital development) and me weren't based with the team so we were a long way from the ground. We ended up in a four-hour taxi journey due to huge traffic jams. This was before the days of people being able to watch friendlies live. The end-result was I had to pre-record a link for the website's live coverage from the back of a taxi. We missed the kick-off, arrived 30 minutes into the game and I commentated on my phone behind Sander Westerveld's goal, surrounded by armed police.

> **"It's an honour to have ex-Reds commentating alongside me"**

Most enjoyable away ground?
The facilities at the Emirates Stadium are second to none. Manchester City's Etihad Stadium is right up there too.

Star you were happiest to meet?
Kenny Dalglish. They say you should never meet your heroes. That statement is sometimes wrong. He is different class. All of the ex-players are genuine, good people and I have massive respect for them. It really is an honour to have them join me for co-commentary.

Favourite opposition player?
Thierry Henry and Michael Laudrup. They would have been amazing playing for us in front of the Kop. Also, I have a lot of respect for Neville Southall.

THE MONTH AHEAD ON LFC TV

Thursday is the new Friday with the footballing weekend now starting even earlier on LFC TV. An old show is back with a new title and a new time slot. THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE airs each week at 7pm and you're invited to join Claire Rourke and her guests in the LFC TV living room as they take a more relaxed approach to the action that lies ahead.

This is just one of the many changes to the output on the club's official television channel for the 2013/14 season and if you've not yet already done so make sure you also check out

DON'T MISS A MOMENT ON LFC TV

LFC WORLD (every Wednesday 7pm), our new weekly magazine show that will appeal to Reds fans everywhere – and ANFIELD 360 (every Friday 7.30pm), our weekly studio show that runs the rule over the fortunes of all the club's teams from Under 18s to the first team via Liverpool Ladies and the Under 21s.

With LFC TV's matchday coverage also returning bigger and better than ever before, the 2013/14 campaign promises to be a great one for viewers of the club channel. And don't forget that immediately after every game you can get involved in the MATCHDAY PHONE-IN show – 0845 234 4567 is the number to call and a panel of ex-Reds will be on hand to take your calls.

For just £2.99 a month LFC TV Online will allow you to watch LFC TV live and will give you on-demand access to all the Reds' goals,highlights, live reserve games, news and exclusive video interviews.

For more info visit www.liverpoolfc.com/video. Delayed coverage of every game is also available via the club's official television channel LFC TV which is free to view on Sky channel 429 or Virgin channel 544.



FIXTURES 13/14

AUGUST
17 Stoke City **(H)** 1-0
24 Aston Villa **(A)** 1-0
27 Notts County **(H)** 4-2*

SEPTEMBER
1 Manchester Utd **(H)**
16 Swansea City **(A) 8:00pm**
21 Southampton **(H) 3:00pm**
25 Capital One Cup 3R (TBC)
29 Sunderland **(A) 4:00pm**

OCTOBER
5 Crystal Palace **(H) 3:00pm**
19 Newcastle Utd **(A) 12:45pm**
26 West Brom **(H) 3:00pm**

NOVEMBER
2 Arsenal **(A) 5:30pm**
9 Fulham **(H) 3:00pm**
23 Everton **(A) 12:45pm**

DECEMBER
1 Hull City **(A) 1:30pm**
4 Norwich City **(H) 8:00pm**
7 West Ham Utd **(H)**
14 Tottenham H **(A)**
21 Cardiff City **(H)**
26 Manchester City **(A)**
28 Chelsea **(A)**

JANUARY 2013
1 Hull City **(H)**
4 FA Cup 3R (TBC)
11 Stoke City **(A)**
18 Aston Villa **(H)**
28 Everton **(H)**

FEBRUARY
1 West Brom **(A)**
8 Arsenal **(H)**
12 Fulham **(A)**
22 Swansea City **(H)**

MARCH
1 Southampton **(A)**
8 Sunderland **(H)**
15 Manchester Utd **(A)**
22 Cardiff City **(A)**
29 Tottenham H **(H)**

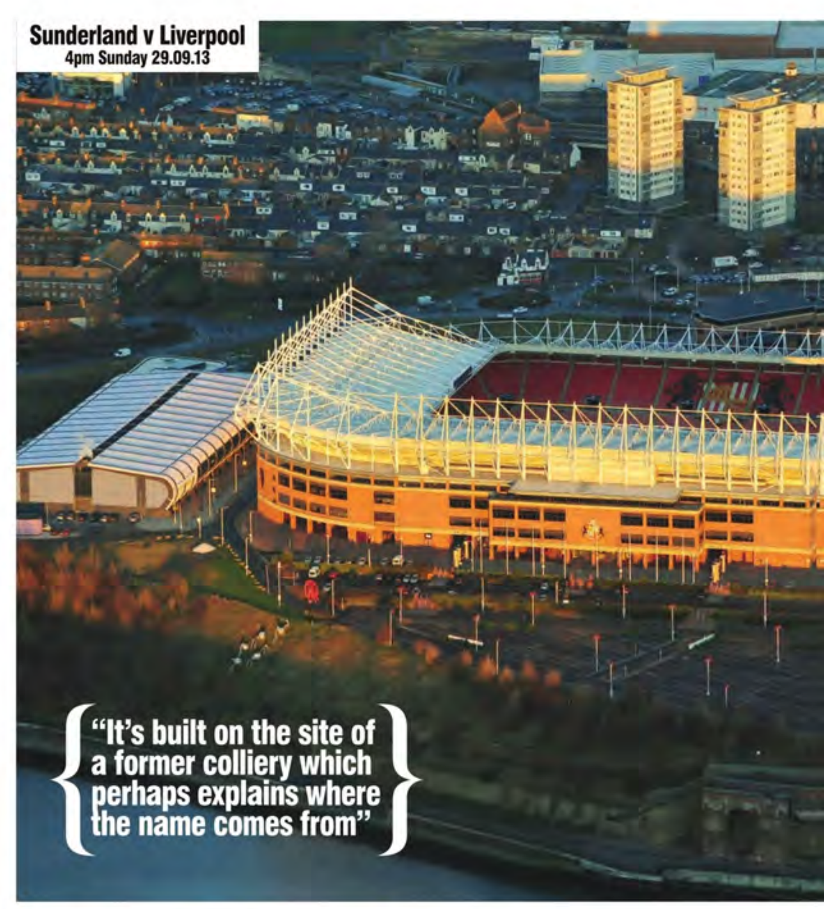
APRIL
5 West Ham Utd **(A)**
12 Manchester City **(H)**
19 Norwich City **(A)**
26 Chelsea **(H)**

MAY
3 Crystal Palace **(A)**
11 Newcastle Utd **(H)**
17 FA Cup final

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Sunderland v Liverpool
4pm Sunday 29.09.13



"It's built on the site of a former colliery which perhaps explains where the name comes from"

Away days

With Sunderland coming up two Reds fans reminisce about Roker Park and its successor



Stadium of Light



Luis Suarez equalises last season on Wearside

"I've been watching Liverpool since 1957 and been to over 2,000 games," says veteran Reds fan Gerry Blaney. "But I had to wait a while before I was allowed to travel up to Sunderland to see my heroes play. In fact I wasn't allowed to go to any away games until I was about 15 or 16. My dad Harry, who was a Liverpool fanatic, felt I wasn't old enough to travel.

"It meant that my first trip to Wearside didn't occur until around the mid to late 1960s. I don't remember the score at Roker Park [Sunderland's home before the Stadium of Light], just the fact that we got in for free because the turnstile wasn't working properly.

"I've enjoyed the trip ever since. Roker was a proper football ground. By that I mean it didn't look brilliant but it had an atmosphere. When you stepped in there it was exciting, particularly for a night-time game. Nowadays we usually travel to Sunderland by coach but I've hitchhiked on many occasions. It usually took a long time but was good fun, particularly if we won.

"I remember a League Cup fixture that was played up there at 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon in 1973. It was during the period of three-day working weeks and games had to be scheduled in daylight to save electricity. We won 2-0, Kevin Keegan and John Toshack scored. Sadly I couldn't make it.

"I did get to Wembley to see us play Sunderland in 1992, but only just. I was driving along the motorway to London doing about 50mph in my red Audi Quattro – registration LFC 932. Suddenly the axle went on the car and we were all over the road. Thankfully we managed to get over to the hard shoulder. I left my car there with a note that read 'Gone to Wembley' and got a lift from a group of Liverpool fans who had pulled over to help us.

"Just like that 2-0 win, our results at Sunderland have usually been decent. I don't remember us losing there too often. Maybe that's why I like the trip.



"In recent times a visit there usually gave us a chance to see at least one of our former players in action. Lads like Paul Stewart, Stephen Wright, Phil Babb, Jason McAteer, Anthony Le Tallec, El Hadji Diouf, Djibril Cisse, Bolo Zenden and even Sotirios Kyrgiakos have spent some time at Sunderland. A few of them would make my worst ever Liverpool XI!

For me one of their best players – and most underrated – was Niall Quinn. He was very effective when it came to using his height. His presence in their side always caused concern.

"Before going there he scored for both Arsenal and Man City against us and often made life difficult. The Sunderland crowd loved it when he caused problems and, if they increased the volume, we did the same. On occasions like those it is a brilliant place to watch football.



"It's a cut above many other modern grounds"

Stadium of Light

"I don't think I ever visited Roker Park," says fellow fan John Hinchcliffe. "But I have been to all of our games at the Stadium of Light since we first travelled there in 1999. One of the best trips was on the opening day of the season in 2008. Prior to the game we stopped in to Hetton-le-Hole, Bob Paisley's hometown, that is roughly eight miles outside of Sunderland.

"A fantastic memorial to the great man was unveiled with a large crowd in attendance. Obviously Liverpool fans will never forget Bob but it was great to see the people in the North East pay him a fitting tribute.

"We also called in to a working men's club for a few drinks. Bizarrely, in this day and age they refused to serve the girls with us. They were only



allowed to drink outside. We all found the outdated way of thinking funny.

"After all that there was a match to attend and, although a mainly dull affair, it concluded in the perfect fashion with Fernando Torres belting in the winner late on. That set us up for a good start to the season and ultimately a title challenge.

"Just over a year later I was back at the Stadium of Light for a defeat I wish I couldn't remember – the beachball game. To see Darren Bent claim that goal was very annoying. The beach-ball clearly had the final touch! I'm sure Pepe Reina would have saved the initial shot if it wasn't for the deflection.



Andriy Voronin (top) and Michael Owen (left) score in 2-0 wins in 2007 and 1999

Why the referee didn't disallow it I still can't understand. I don't think the result had a big bearing on our season but it still wasn't right to lose that way.

"Win or lose, the Stadium of Light is a place I like. It's a cut above many modern grounds. For a start its size makes it stand out. The majority of newer stadiums look similar and have a 20-30,000 capacity. Up there they can host 49,000 fans, which is pretty impressive. It's built on the site of a former colliery. I guess that's where the name originated because obviously light was so important to the miners.

"Although it's still a relatively new venue there is a traditional feel about it, particularly with the statue of Bob Stokoe, their former manager, outside. He was in charge when they won the FA Cup in 1973 and the statue is inscribed with: 'The man, the messiah, the moment' in reference to that.

"On past visits I also recall being impressed by Simon Mignolet. It will be interesting to see what kind of reception he gets. I'm sure he'll enjoy returning so soon."

CLASSIC CLASH

19.01.1907
Sunderland 5 Liverpool 5

At the time LFC had a reputation for being good in the first half of games and poor after the interval. This was another of those afternoons.

Four-one up at the break through two goals from Jack Parkinson plus Sam Raybould and Jack Cox efforts, they only departed with a solitary point.

Not even Parkinson completing his hat-trick in the second half was enough for victory. An Ernie Rhodes penalty for the hosts five minutes from the end ultimately made it 5-5.

The *Liverpool Echo* commented: "no doubt greybeards in the future will paint a lurid picture to their little grandchildren of the famous battle in which no fewer than ten goals were scored."


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GIRL POWER

For one Liverpool FC Ladies fan it's been a rollercoaster season. *Kelsey Maxwell* asks her why





Natasha Dowie against Bristol (above); a signed teamsheet; and Heather with Amanda Da Costa



If you're a Liverpool FC Ladies supporter you've probably come across the Twitter account @LFCladiesfans. It boasts over 800 followers – including some members of the team itself – and like the club's official and equally popular account @LFCladies it provides excellent in-play updates when matches are taking place. It also has a blog with full reports from a fan's viewpoint often straight after the final whistle.

The devoted fan behind all this is 22-year-old Liverpudlian, Heather Carroll, who wanted to provide coverage from a fan's perspective.

"I felt like there was a lot of information about the men's team on websites, fan sites and Twitter generally, whereas there was nothing really for the women's (team) that provided news from a fan's angle," she explains. "The blogs just came hand-in-hand with that because I like writing.

"Twitter is a great way to connect people from Liverpool or anywhere in the world who support the team. I have followers from Norway and Russia, people from London who can't get to the games, fans from Indonesia as well who tweet to ask me questions. I'd also like to thank the website This Is Anfield for letting me blog about the women's game on a monthly basis – they have over half-a-million followers on social networks so it gets the news out to a much wider audience."

As well as working full-time and getting ready to start an English & Media degree at Liverpool John Moores University in September, Heather attends all the Liverpool FC Ladies home games, so it's not easy picking out one highlight so far this





The 2013 LFC Ladies squad; and Heather meets Gemma Bonner



"The rivalry between fans is different – we're all supportive of each other"

season. "Probably the derby win before the break," she decides. "It's great to beat Everton any time but to win 4-1 away was a great result. I'd also go for the 4-3 victory against Bristol Academy after the midsummer break. We went 3-1 ahead and they pulled it back to three-all. We needed to win to go back to the top of the table and Gemma Bonner popped up with an incredible winner five minutes from time."

The popularity of the Ladies team comes as no surprise with the Reds competing at the top of the FA Women's Super League in a period when the women's game is officially the third-most played sport in the UK after men's football and cricket. Around 70,000 of the 89,000 registered female players in the UK are under 18.

Heather adds: "There have been a lot of investments in women's football. Last winter Liverpool FC Ladies signed 12 new players, including some full internationals, and it's increased the interest in the city." Interestingly the stereotype of tribal rivalry among opposing fans doesn't apply to the women's game. Heather frequently retweets and favourites posts by fans of other teams. "That's one of the surprising and great things, especially when you support a men's team as well. The Doncaster supporters are brilliant, they go to all their away games. And there are a few girls who tweet as @girlsontheball and go to games every week watching different teams. They support Arsenal but chat to any supporters. Everyone is trying to promote the women's game so we're all friendly and supportive of each other.

"I'd like to see the attendances keep rising at the games. Liverpool FC Ladies broke through the 1,000 barrier earlier in the season and I'd love to see it happen regularly."

With the passion and support of fans like Heather, there's a very good chance that it will.

You can follow Heather on Twitter **@LFCladiesfans** and via liverpoolladiesfans.blogspot.co.uk and of course read her updates at www.thisisanfield.com.





Fave players

"Our right-back Lucy Bronze (above) started the season on the bench and worked her way into the team and now she runs all day up and down the flank. I also like the way the captain Gemma Bonner leads the team. She's quite understated, not one for shouting all over the pitch, and she leads by example like Steven Gerrard. And of course Natasha Dowie, a top striker. She does so much for the team as well as scoring goals."



Working with children and adults to help inspire positive change through sport – follow us on Twitter **@LFCFoundation** to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities

Brendan Rodgers and Steven Gerrard during an event with the Reagan Milstein Foundation in Melbourne

Here to stay

Liverpool Football Club's pre-season tour in Asia and Australia has left a lasting charitable legacy in the three countries visited.

Liverpool FC Foundation, the club's official charity, sent a group of community coaches on the tour to deliver a range of football-related programmes designed to provide positive change to local children and adults – but these weren't just whistle-stop events while Liverpool were in town.



Joe Allen and Lucas launch the partnership with the Bangkok School for the Blind

The club has created three 'charity partners' in Indonesia, Australia and Thailand to continue providing support: the British Council and Premier League's Premier Skills Gocekz Project in Indonesia; the Reagan Milstein Foundation in Australia; and Bangkok School for the Blind in Thailand. Managing director Ian Ayre explains: "LFC is the world's greatest football family. The tour was part of our strategy to bring the club closer to fans no matter how far away from Anfield they live."


Reds legend Ian Rush shares his skills with children from the Gocekz Project in Indonesia

Lady Uraiwan Sirinupongs, chairperson from Bangkok School for the Blind, adds: "We are privileged to be part of this remarkable experience with the world-class players of Liverpool. This is a great opportunity for our kids to learn and strengthen their self-esteem and confidence giving them drive to stand on their own."

Follow us on Twitter @LFCFoundation

One LFC-supporting craftsman recalls the most incredible ten weeks of his working life

"I BUILT THE SHANKLY GATES"



This month it's all about what would've been Bill Shankly's 100th birthday, but last year saw two other anniversaries linked to the great man: 15 years since the bronze statue of Bill – such a popular meeting place for fans these days – was unveiled outside the Spion Kop, and three decades since the magnificent Shankly Gates were officially opened on the other side of the stadium.

The ceremony that day in August 1982 was featured in an LFC matchday programme of the time, with Bill's widow Nessie formally unlocking the gates accompanied by their grandchildren plus Liverpool



"There were ten designs submitted for the gates and Mrs Shankly chose ours"

"We were shattered at the end of it all but always confident of getting the gates finished on time"



chairman John Smith, manager Bob Paisley and skipper Graeme Souness. "Mrs Shankly was keen for a memorial which showed Bill's affiliation with the supporters," club secretary Peter Robinson told the programme. "It is not thought a similar honour exists in football. A comparison would be the Grace Gates at Lord's [cricket ground] in honour of WG Grace."

There in spirit that day was Ken Hall, the man who'd designed and built the gates – which stand 14ft high, stretch 20ft from end to end, and weigh more than three tons – from his foundry in Somerset. With a little help from Diana Ingram, a librarian from Frome Museum in the West Country, the Liverpool FC magazine tracked down Ken who still lives and works in the area. Diana sent us a 1982 cutting from a Somerset newspaper that reported how Ken's County Forge had 'gained the contract in the face of tough opposition from all over the country' and called in blacksmith Chris Brooks from neighbouring Wiltshire (who sadly passed away five years ago) to assist with the craftwork.

In turn Ken, now 56 and a Liverpool fan from the days of Keegan and Toshack, unearthed his original blueprint for the design as well as some fabulous old snaps of the gates being offloaded by crane from the lorry which transported them 200 miles north to Anfield less than 12 months after Shankly's death. From commission to completion, the whole job had taken 10 summer weeks.



17 years after the Shankly Gates were erected at Anfield, the Paisley Gateway was unveiled in front of the Kop on Walton Breck Road. Like Nessie Shankly, Jessie Paisley was instrumental in the chosen design.

"Our design was one of ten which had been originally submitted and when the selection committee laid them all out on a table Mrs Shankly picked ours – she said there was nothing to touch it," recalls Ken, pictured on the previous pages wearing an enamel LFC badge given to him by a rabid Red who visited the forge back in 1982 to watch the gates being made. "When the club rang to tell us, my dad was next to me and he said I went as white as a sheet!

"Chris worked on the overthrow [the upper section bearing the legend *You'll Never Walk Alone* below the Scottish thistle, cross of St Andrew and Liver Bird] and I concentrated on the gates themselves which we had to make one at a time, laid flat on top of each other because my workshop was quite small. We had an apprentice each to help so there were four of us in total.

"We were shattered at the end of the ten weeks but always confident about completing the gates on time. The only worry was about getting them to fit. We were nervous but at the installation outside the stadium it was perfect – just 3mm out on one of the hinges. Enthusiasm got us through in the end – it was definitely a labour of love.

"I've only been back to Anfield twice since then. The last time, we were in a taxi heading for the ground and when we told the driver what we'd done he wouldn't charge us for the fare."



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WISH LIST

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Awesome new looks for 2013/14





1 Official LFC St George's Tee £25
It's the one and only Bill Shankly outside St George's Hall in Liverpool and in front of adoring thousands – and on this superb tee it comes with contrast red stitching to the sleeve and hem (A110)

2 Men's Red Generic Bonded Jacket £50
A smart addition to any Liverpool supporter's wardrobe, this modern-classic jacket comes in eye-catching deep red to compliment any outfit and suit any occasion (A1370)

3 Men's Warrior Green Pinstripe Polo £25
Shake up your polo game with this assured style choice – featuring yellow pinstripe and embroidered Liver Bird and Warrior logo (M291G)

4 Bike Cardigan £45
From the SS13 Official LFC Leisure Collection, this gem features a red collar and red-and-white stripe around the sleeve with retro crest (A1265)

5 LFC Men's Goddard Tee £20
Make the message loud and clear with this tee's homage to the Miracle of Istanbul (A1834)





All featured products are available in official club stores and online at **www.liverpoolfc.com/store**



David PRICE

The start of the season saw plenty of reasons for optimism

Sometimes in sport you have to make tough decisions and Brendan Rodgers has shown he isn't afraid to do that this summer. That has been the case with the goalkeeping situation and opting to move Pepe Reina on and bring in Simon Mignolet.

Pepe had served Liverpool really well over the years but had started to make a few mistakes which had cost us a few points over the past couple of seasons. As a manager you can't let sentiment get in the way. You've got to do what's best for the club and I think bringing Mignolet in is a good move.

We all knew he was a top keeper before he arrived here but after having a dream debut against Stoke City hopefully he will now have the confidence to perform well for Liverpool. He became an instant cult hero with that penalty save and it was a really good stop too – as was the one from the rebound that followed.

Such moments can make a huge difference to confidence, which is massive in sport. Everyone came out of Anfield buzzing afterwards and you have to respect Brendan Rodgers for backing his judgment and making a big call.

I was delighted that we were able to start the season with a win. Stoke have been a bit of a bogey team for us since I can remember and are a nightmare to play against. But we played them off the park and although we hit the woodwork and their goalkeeper also had a blinder, we won the game. A couple of seasons ago we would have walked off that pitch with one point but thankfully Daniel Sturridge had that finishing touch which helped make the difference.

> "You've got to do what's best for the club and bringing in Mignolet was a good move"



Mignolet celebrates his penalty save against Stoke

The new signings have looked the part so far. As well as Mignolet, I like the look of Iago Aspas, and Kolo Toure looks to be a shrewd signing.

When I heard he was joining I was pleased because I've always been a bit of a fan of his. He's a solid defender and he'll bring that experience into the team and I can imagine him being a good character to have around the dressing-room. He's someone for the younger players to draw on that experience and he could be the perfect man to replace Jamie Carragher.

When you put the new signings together with Philippe Coutinho, who has probably been one of our buys of the century so far, it looks promising. It's always easy to go into a season feeling optimistic but I think we have every reason to be after some of the football we've played in pre-season and against Stoke.

Last season was always going to be a transitional season with Brendan taking charge and this year it's time for us to give it a real go and make a good push to get into that top four. The players will be more familiar with the coaching staff and will have settled into that after last season and if we can continue as we did in the second half of last year, it will give them all confidence.

On a personal note, I'm hoping to start some light training again this month. I've had a good rest and now I'm aiming to get back in the ring again before Christmas and get my career back on track. It's been a disastrous year for me so far but hopefully I can end the year on a positive note and get back to winning ways before building on that in 2014.

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1


Standard
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What qualities make a great LFC player?



JFT96 @Mr_ChrisL
Ability first…if he hasn't got that he doesn't deserve the shirt…then passion

MARK ROGERS
@markrogers
Commitment, gratitude, ambition

STEVE
@stevemcveigh123
Ability, talent, character and club-long longevity

NIAMH
@niamhus_LFC
Commitment, a good attitude, a desire to succeed

DAVE WALTON
@walts0987
To feel privileged to play for Liverpool

REDTOTHECORE
@RodgersRedmen
Loyalty

JOSEPH SHEERIN
@josephsheerin
Perm, tash and medals

LARC SWENO
@Larc_Sweno
They clearly have to take the rough with the smooth

ROCKY DENNIS
@AggerDagger
Someone who scores goals

MICHAEL M
@Mike_BFC_LFC
Determination to give everything for the shirt!

STE SPEED
@ste_speed
Hunger, desire, passion

STUART NORTHCOTE
@Snowythered
Honesty, pride in the shirt, respect for the fans


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